

2022 IMPACT REPORT

EMPOWER
ILLINOIS[®]







Dear Friends,

It is sometimes hard to believe that the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program is already five years old. Not so very long ago this program was an improbable idea with immense potential—a new tax credit scholarship program without a single dollar raised or scholarship awarded. What we did have, all of us in this vital work, was the fundamental belief that all kids deserve access to an excellent education, regardless of their ZIP Code or family income.

I am proud of how far we have come since those early days—building an organization, team, coalition, and community that has come together to make what was once improbable quite real indeed.

Thanks to the generosity and leadership of this amazing community of supporters, we set new records again in 2022, raising more \$51.3 million dollars and awarding more than 7,000 tax credit scholarships. This data is impressive to be sure, but what is most inspiring are the stories they represent of students and families whose lives are changed for the better thanks to these scholarships. As one family shared:

OVER
\$308,800,000
RAISED STATEWIDE
(2018-2022)

OVER
\$227,700,000
RAISED BY EMPOWER ILLINOIS
(2018-2022)

OVER
38,300

STATEWIDE SCHOLARSHIPS
(2018-2022)

OVER
30,750

EMPOWER ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIPS
(2018-2022)

"It means the world to me being a single parent and being able to provide my child with the best education possible. Without a tax credit scholarship I would need multiple jobs and child care. Thank you simply isn't enough."

2022 marked another first for the Invest in Kids Act—a **first-ever stand-alone bill (House Bill 4126)** that made improvements to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program and **was passed unanimously in both the House and Senate**. This historic moment was possible because heroic lawmakers listened and responded to the voices of students and families, school principals and teachers, donors and civic leaders—each of you reading this letter—who are the true champions of this growing coalition.

Your leadership, your generosity, your voice makes THE difference—it is the reason this program is not just a good idea with immense potential, but a true success with so much more to achieve. This program, and the many thousands of students and their families who benefit from it are counting on all of us again this year to set even new records—and most importantly—to protect and expand the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program for them and generations to come.

Onward,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, bold 'A' followed by a cursive 'H' and 'O'.

Anthony Holter
President



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EMPOWER IN THE NEWS

EMPOWER MISSION



The Empower Illinois mission is to expand quality education options for low-income and working-class families of Illinois.



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PROFILE



The dog ran away
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EMPOWER HISTORY

EMPOWER ILLINOIS HAS A **BIG, BOLD MISSION** ROOTED IN THE SIMPLE BELIEF THAT EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION OPTIONS.

Empower Illinois has a big, bold mission rooted in the simple belief that every child should have access to high quality education options. Over the years, our team members have devoted themselves to this mission through classroom work, policy research, and scholarship granting. Each of these efforts, over many years and under numerous iterations, has become the core of Empower Illinois.

Knowing Illinois and its students are capable of incredible things, Empower Illinois has a history of helping students receive their best-fit education. In 2016, we advocated for and passed the Untapped Potential Act, and in 2017, we advocated for and passed the Accelerated Placement Act.

Our largest accomplishment once again came through cooperation, as education leaders across the state united to improve the public school funding formula and expand options for all Illinoisans. Through the bipartisan passage of Illinois' Invest in Kids Act in 2017, Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship Program uses private dollars to fund K-12 scholarships for low-income and working-class students, whose education options were previously limited by household income.

With the successful passing of the Invest in Kids Act, Empower Illinois became a statewide Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) to serve Illinois' children. As the leading SGO in our state,

Empower Illinois supports schools in their tax credit fundraising efforts, while assisting students and their families through the scholarship process.

When the Tax Credit Scholarship Program launched, there was no platform designed to accept donations, issue scholarship awards, and remain in compliance with the Invest in Kids Act regulations. As early demand for the program skyrocketed, our team recognized the need to build a custom, transparent, and user-friendly solution: EmpowerXChange®. In August 2021, the EmpowerXChange's revolutionary and novel capabilities secured a technology United States Patent.

The Tax Credit Scholarship Program continues to face organized opposition and campaigns to end the program have been launched twice in the last three years. Empower Illinois not only protected the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program on each of those occasions, but also secured a one-year program extension and unanimously passed the first ever standalone bill to improve the program.

With an upcoming vote to secure the Tax Credit Scholarship Program's future, Empower Illinois, families, school leaders, and community leaders stand united to ensure all kids can find and attend their best fit school today, tomorrow, and for decades to come.

4 LAWS

PASSED
SINCE 2017

30,000+

SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

\$227M+

RAISED FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS

EMPOWER LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sara Albrecht
Jack Buck
Ward Hamm, *Treasurer*
Daniel Lipinski
Karin Norington Reaves
Jim Perry, *Chairperson*
John Schoenig, *Secretary*
Chris Wallace
Avrum Weinfeld

EMERITUS BOARD

John Buck
John Schreiber

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Sara Albrecht, *Chairperson*
Jeff Aeder
Doug Gourley
Mary Clare Gourley
Tom Hulsebosch
Nancy Hulsebosch
John Kirtley
Andy McKenna †
Levoyd Robinson
John Schreiber
Scott Schuster
Joe Scoby
Peter Thompson
Peter Vilim
Ed Wehmer
Mark Wight

EMPOWER ILLINOIS STAFF

Anthony Holter, *President*

COMMUNICATIONS

Emma Ciavarella, *Communications Director*
Julia Sullivan, *Communications and Data Manager*
Emilio Davis, *Communications Associate*
Kimberly Cummins, *Communications Consultant*



DEVELOPMENT



Maris Harrington Tallentire, *Director of Development*
Patrick Bittorf, *Director of Major Gifts*

FINANCE

Brandan Allen, *Sr. Director of Finance and Compliance*
Justine Gagne Weidel, *Administration and Compliance Manager*
Christian Padilla, *Senior Finance Associate*
Alyssa Donato, *Finance Associate*
Susan Walker, *Finance Consultant*



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND ADVOCACY

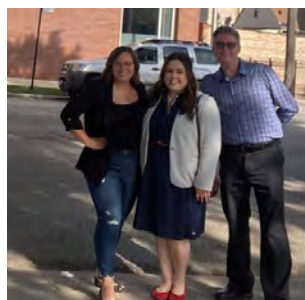
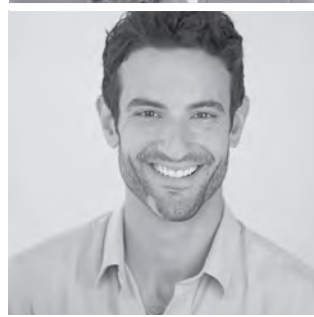
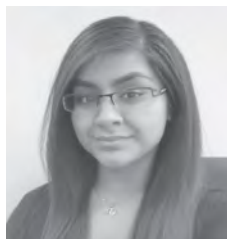
Juan Rangel, *Sr. Director of Community and Government Affairs*
Bobby Sylvester, *Director of School and Community Partnerships*
Brian Iggins, *Regional Manager*
Chelsie Leffelman, *Regional Manager*
Katie Taylor, *Regional Manager*



OPERATIONS

Chris Davis, *Director of Operations*
Araceli Mendoza, *Customer Success Manager*
Clarissa Acosta, *Senior Scholarship Specialist*
Bruno Campos, *Scholarship Specialist*
Niko Kourtis, *Scholarship Specialist*
Maurice Rodriguez, *Scholarship Specialist*





EMPOWER 2022

In 2022, Empower Illinois celebrated the fifth year of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program and continued working toward our goal of ensuring quality education options for all Illinois kids.

As the fifth year of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program began, Empower Illinois prepared for what was to be a remarkable year. With the launch of the 2022-2023 application, over 31,000 families got in line for scholarships to their best-fit school. Advocates from the TCS Community joined together to ask lawmakers to pass legislation that expanded the program to better serve the families in line for a tax credit scholarship.

Throughout the year, generous program donors envisioned new initiatives to help families most in need. With their renewed support, Empower Illinois broke annual fundraising and awarding records.

As the year drew to a close, program supporters asked lawmakers for their help in removing the sunset, preserving scholarships for more years to come.

JANUARY

Celebrated National School Choice Week with the Tax Credit Scholarship Community



MARCH

Improved the EmpowerXChange® school dashboard, providing more data transparency



APRIL

Unanimous passage of House Bill 4126, which created year-over-year and partial scholarships



JUNE

Launched a collaborative match between schools called Sharing Our Gifts



JULY

Implemented year-over-year scholarships, creating stability for Empower families



AUGUST

Celebrated the five-year anniversary of the passage of the Invest in Kids Act



SEPTEMBER

Exceeded \$200,000,000 of Empower Illinois fundraising for tax credit scholarships



OCTOBER

Broke Empower Illinois' annual scholarship record with 6,200 awards



NOVEMBER

Advocated in Springfield to Remove the Sunset and make the Invest on Kids Act permanent



DECEMBER

Surpassed all previous fundraising and tax credit scholarship award records



"Empower Illinois is essential to our children's educational future. My children have been given a chance they otherwise would not have had and there are no words to describe knowing that they are receiving the best opportunity to improve the rest of their lives."

- Empower Family

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF INVESTING IN ILLINOIS KIDS





& LOOKING FORWARD TO MANY MORE

FIVE YEARS OF EMPOWERING ILLINOIS

2018

Following the 2017 passage of the Invest in Kids Act, Empower Illinois quickly got to work preparing for the 2018 program launch. In January, thousands of students and families throughout the state began the application process for K-12 private school scholarships for the first time. After just one evening, more than 33,000 students were in line for a tax credit scholarship with Empower Illinois.

In February, Empower Illinois awarded its first ever tax credit scholarship. Over the course of the year, more than 5,450 scholarships followed.

With \$61.4 million, including \$45.2 million raised by Empower Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship program broke the national record for the most money raised of any first-year tax credit scholarship program.



2019

In the spring of 2019, Empower Illinois led the fight to protect education opportunities for Illinois' kids. When opponents sought to cut and cap the Tax Credit Scholarship Program, Empower Illinois supported its broad coalition in daily advocacy trips to Springfield.

To prepare for the Fall 2019-Spring 2020 reservation and application, Empower Illinois launched the EmpowerXChange® portals for schools and families. With custom-built technology and tailored interfaces, the EXC portal offers a user-friendly design that supports thousands of Empower Illinois' stakeholders.

Thanks to the generosity of every day Illinoisans who care about quality education options, Empower Illinois awarded its 10,000th scholarship in September 2019.



2020

In February of 2020, the Empower Illinois team grew with the addition of our in-house Customer Success Team. This marked a major milestone for Empower Illinois- all of our team members worked together in one office.

As the COVID-19 pandemic surged, the Empower Illinois team remained committed to serving Illinois' families most in need. We continued to process donations, review applications, and award scholarships to students across the state uninterrupted.

Cenerous program donors, too, played a crucial role by ensuring that scholarships continued to be funded, despite facing potential economic challenges of their own.

In April, a We Ask America poll showed high demand for the landmark, bipartisan Invest in Kids Act, with 54% of voters support the bipartisan Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program, including 72% of Black voters, 65% of Latino voters and 61% of Democratic voters.



2021

EmpowerXChange®, Empower Illinois' custom technology platform that processes our donations and applications, secured a United States Patent and was nominated as a Top 100 Finalist for the 20th Annual Chicago Innovation Awards.

Virginia Walden Ford, one of the country's leading advocates for parent empowerment, visited St. Patrick's Catholic School and the State Capitol in Springfield to share the importance of providing low-income and working-class families with quality education options.

2022

2022 was a record-breaking year for Empower Illinois, as we raised more dollars and issued more scholarships than ever before.



In April, Empower Illinois helped lead the charge to unanimously pass the first standalone bill on the Invest in Kids Act, House Bill (HB) 4126. HB4126 created two improvements to the law, year-over-year scholarship priority and partial scholarships, to provide greater education stability for families and increase scholarship access.

In September, we hosted a breakfast to celebrate the five-year anniversary of the Invest in Kids Act and issuing 36,000 scholarships. We were joined by Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Representative Curtis J. Tarver II, and Leader Lisa Hernandez, as well as our speakers, Betania Demisse from Saint Ignatius College Prep and Maria Silvia Uribe from Lycée Français de Chicago.



The success of the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program would not be possible without partnership from all corners of the state. Empower Illinois is thankful to the families, schools, communities, and donors who have supported our work over the past five years.

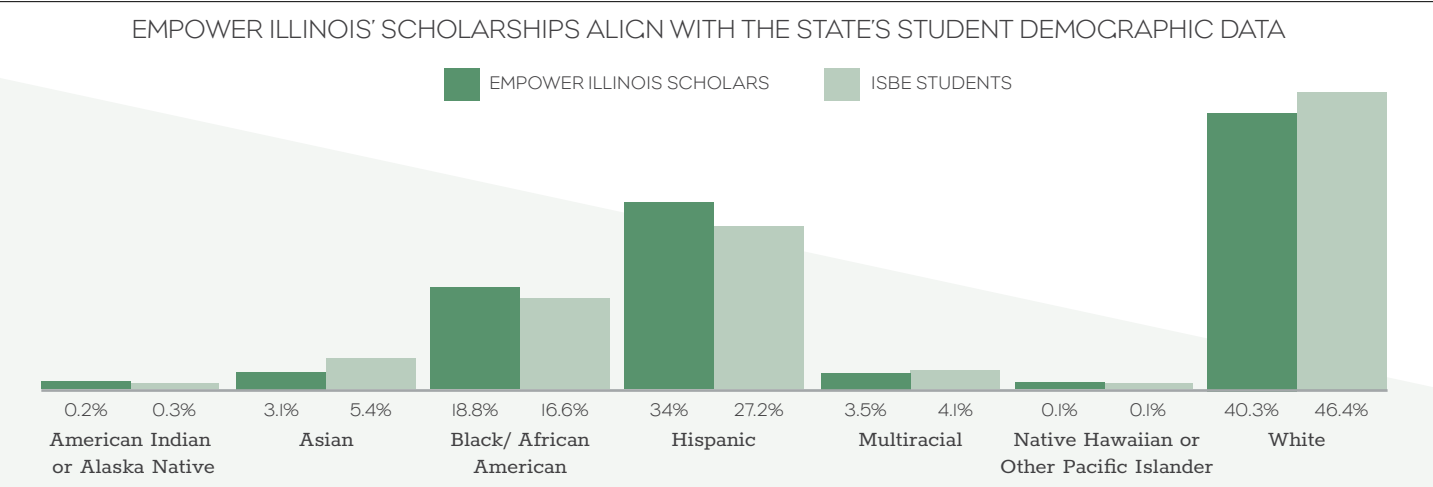
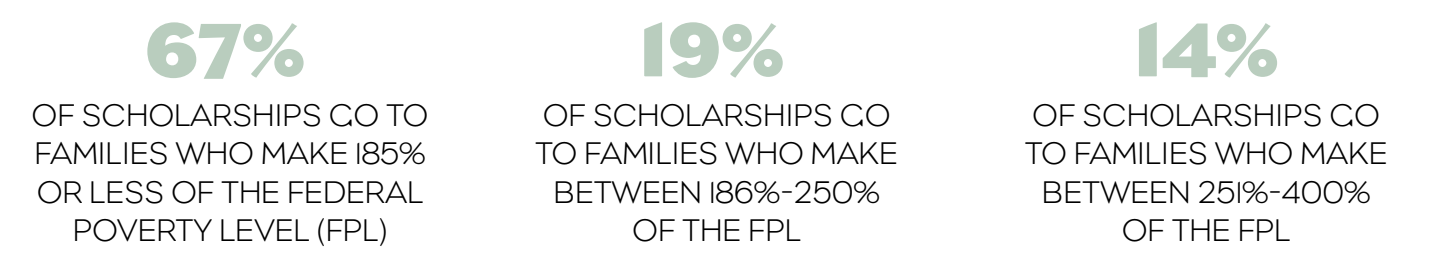
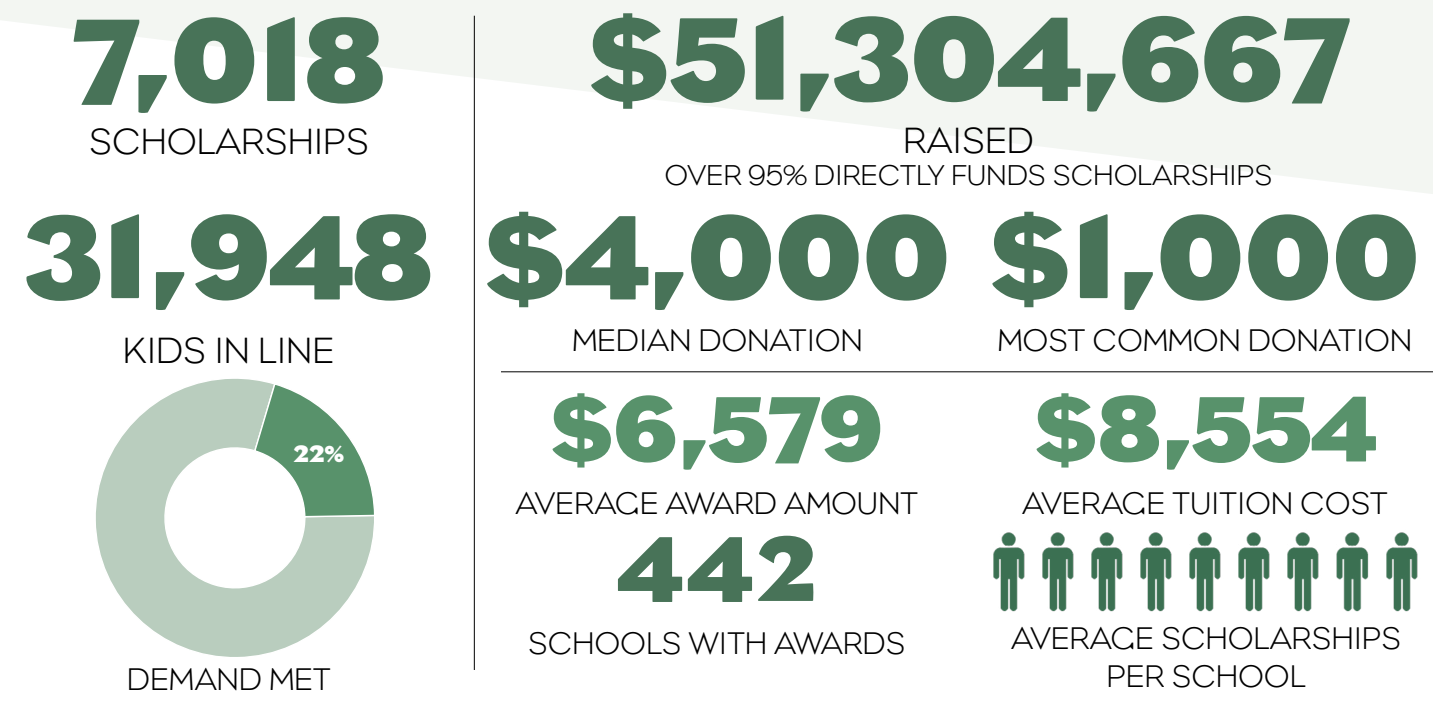
Ben P. Lippman, Alysia, Julie, Thel, AZ
f-Rf, Cherie Lippman, Kiyang, Anne
Mauricio Rodriguez, Bruno Campos, Ch
Pat Bittorf, Ch
Evan, M, Ch, Pashan
Guisa, Abby, Sylvester





BY THE NUMBERS

IN 2022, EMPOWER ILLINOIS SET A NEW ANNUAL FUNDRAISING AND AWARDING RECORD, MAKING IT THE MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR YET.



EMPOWER STUDENTS

DEMAND FOR TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS IN ILLINOIS REMAINS OVERWHELMING, TOPPING OVER **\$210 MILLION**. CURRENT FUNDING ALLOWED ONLY **22%** OF APPLICANTS TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP IN THE FALL 2022-SPRING 2023 SCHOOL YEAR.

These numbers underscore the demand for the Tax Credit Scholarship Program and speak to the power of quality education options. Empower Illinois will continue to protect and hopefully expand the Tax Credit Scholarship Program, so each of the 31,948 kids in line for a scholarship can receive an education that best fits their needs.



31,948

KIDS IN LINE



22%

DEMAND MET



7,018

SCHOLARSHIPS



1 IN 9

UNIQUE LEARNERS



\$210,185,892

REQUIRED TO FUND ALL KIDS
WHO WANT A SCHOLARSHIP

WHY FAMILIES APPLY

- 1** Wanted a school with higher academic quality
- 2** Wanted a school with religious/faith based instruction
- 3** Wanted a school with character/values instruction
- 4** Wanted a safer school
- 5** Wanted a school with smaller class sizes

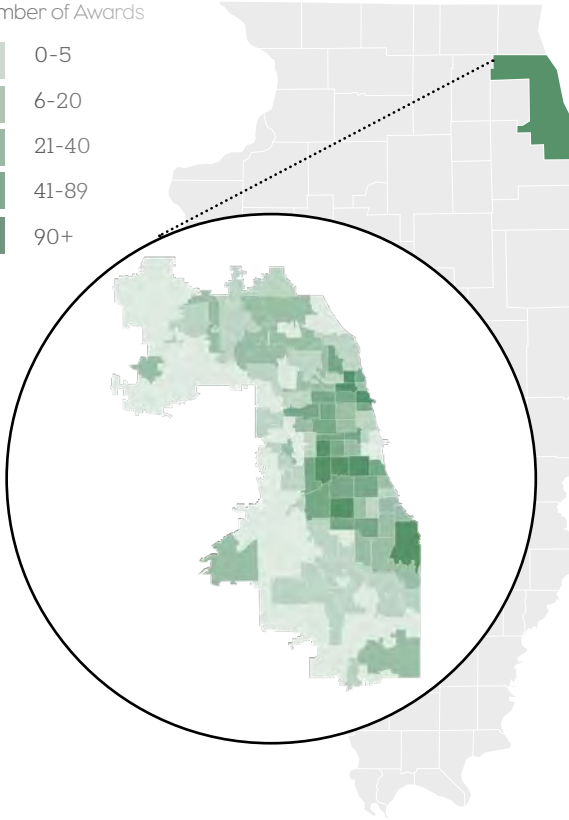
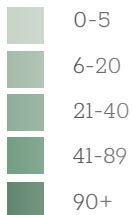
The Saldan Family's Scholarship Story

“ Thank you for accepting the scholarship application from our family for the upcoming school year. We are recent immigrants from Ukraine. In 2021, we moved back to the Ukraine for a while. It was a good opportunity for our son to get better at his violin playing skills. He had studied at the State Music Lyceum in Ukraine, majoring in violin. This is a unique school with an outstanding music program. In March 2022, we returned to Chicago due to martial law and war in Ukraine. One of us lost our previous job and is currently unemployed. Financial assistance is very important for us now, as our family is facing financial difficulties. ”



REGION 1

Number of Awards



12,537
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

3,761
TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDEES

\$30,562,996
DONATED

208
SCHOOLS

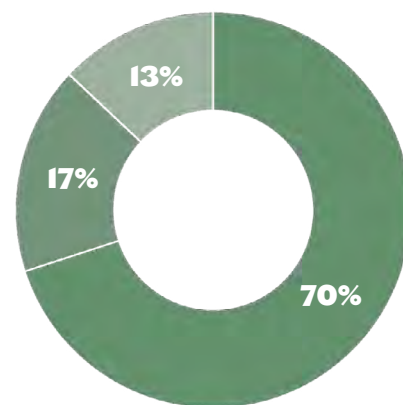
MOST AWARDS BY CITY

CHICAGO	PALATINE
CICERO	MAYWOOD
SKOKIE	WHEELING
BERWYN	DES PLAINES
EVANSTON	MOUNT PROSPECT
NORTHBROOK	CLENVIEW

ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE/ ETHNICITY	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%
Asian	2.6%
Black/African American	25.7%
Hispanic	40.3%
Multiracial	3.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
White	28.0%
GRAND TOTAL	100%

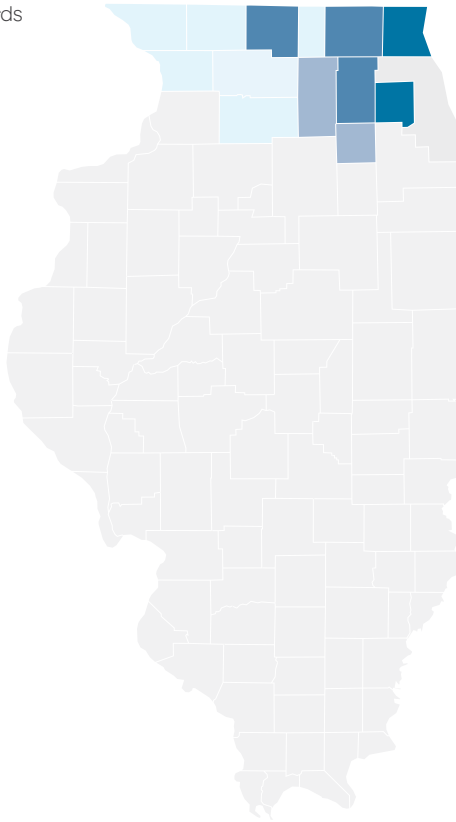
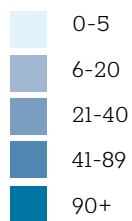
SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS



- 70% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 17% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 13% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

REGION 2

Number of Awards



3,673
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

1,187
TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDEES

\$9,709,814
DONATED

92
SCHOOLS

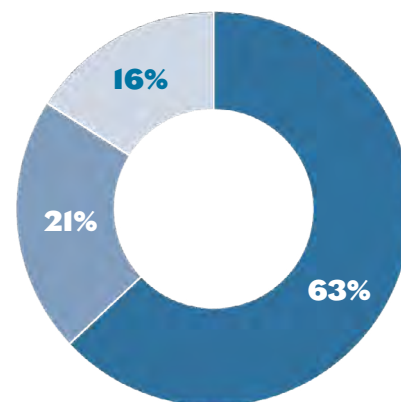
MOST AWARDS BY COUNTY

DUPAGE
LAKE
WINNEBAGO
MCHENRY
KANE
KENDALL
LEE
DEKALB
STEPHENSON
BOONE

ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE/ ETHNICITY	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.1%
Asian	7.4%
Black/African American	7.1%
Hispanic	38.9%
Multiracial	3.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.3%
White	42.7%
GRAND TOTAL	100%

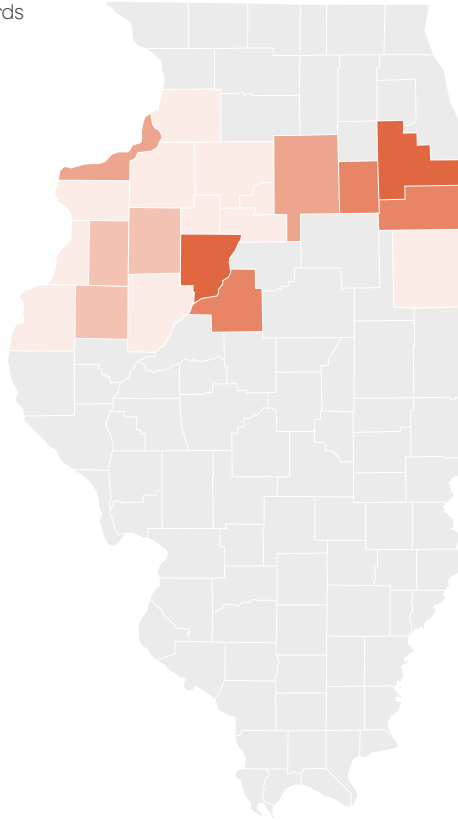
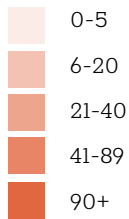
SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS



- 63% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 21% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 16% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

REGION 3

Number of Awards



2,195
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

851
TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDEES

\$5,227,505
DONATED

59
SCHOOLS

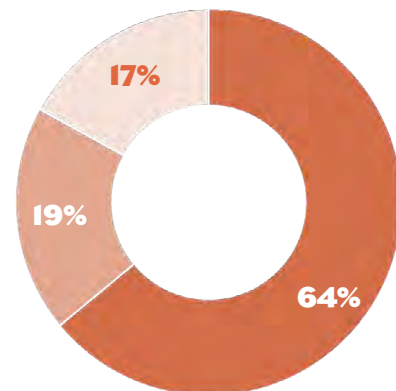
MOST AWARDS BY COUNTY

PEORIA
WILL
KANKAKEE
GRUNDY
TAZEWELL
LASALLE
WARREN
ROCK ISLAND
KNOX
MCDONOUGH
HENRY

ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE/ ETHNICITY	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
Asian	1.8%
Black/African American	9.8%
Hispanic	35.1%
Multiracial	3.3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
White	50.1%
GRAND TOTAL	100%

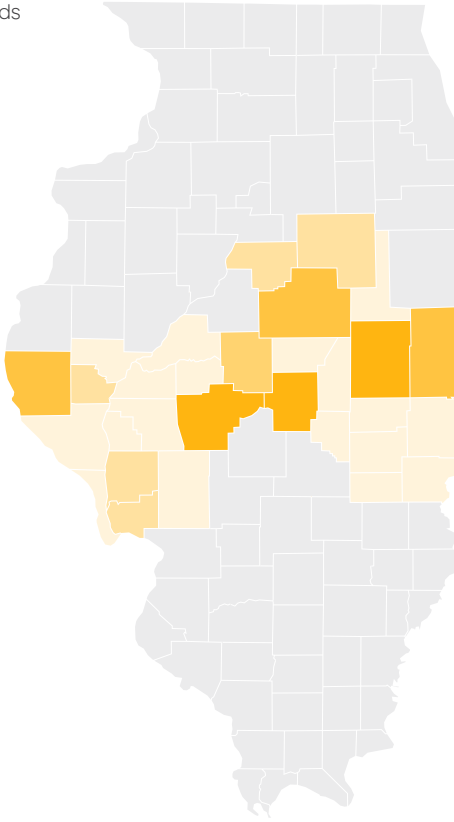
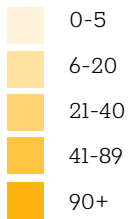
SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS



- 64% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 19% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 17% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

REGION 4

Number of Awards



1,500
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

754
TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDEES

\$3,532,393
DONATED

45
SCHOOLS

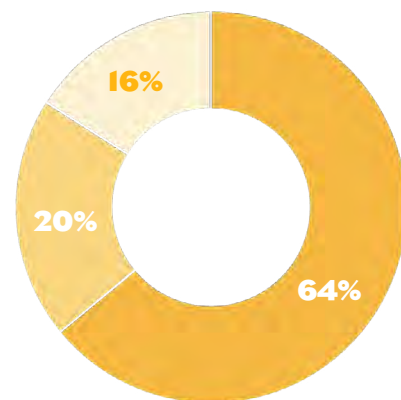
MOST AWARDS BY COUNTY

SANGAMON	LOGAN
CHAMPAIGN	JERSEY
MACON	LIVINGSTON
VERMILION	WOODFORD
MCLEAN	BROWN
ADAMS	COLES

ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE/ ETHNICITY	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.4%
Asian	1.3%
Black/African American	18.4%
Hispanic	11.8%
Multiracial	5.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
White	62.2%
GRAND TOTAL	100%

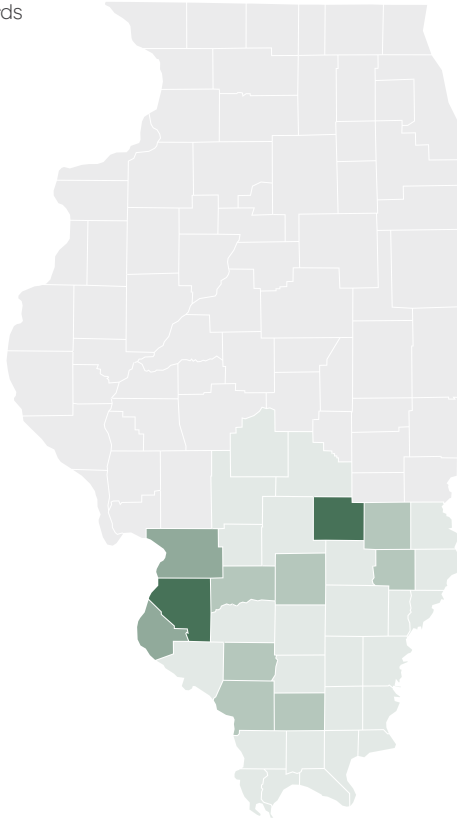
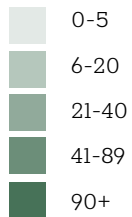
SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS



- 64% of scholarships go to families who make less than 185% of the federal poverty level
- 20% of scholarships go to families who make between 185%-250% of the federal poverty level
- 16% of scholarships go to families who make between 250%-400% of the federal poverty level

REGION 5

Number of Awards



917
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS

465
TOTAL NUMBER OF AWARDEES

\$2,271,959
DONATED

38
SCHOOLS

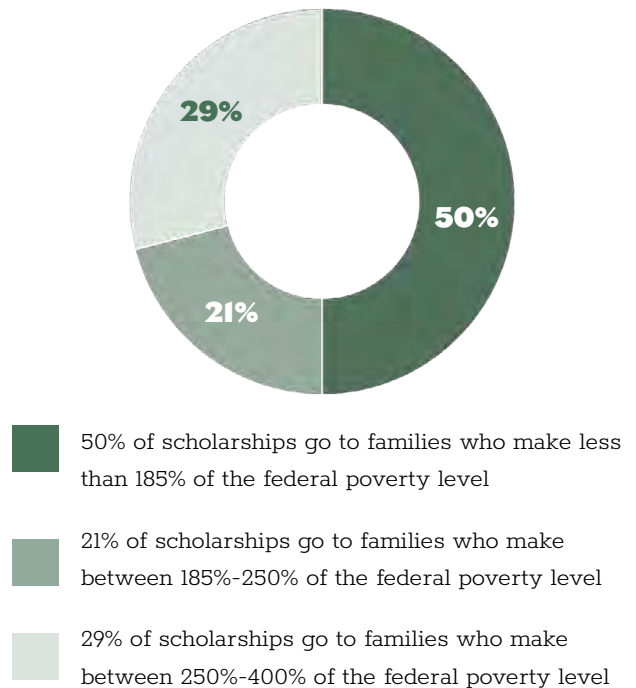
MOST AWARDS BY COUNTY

EFFINGHAM	PERRY
ST. CLAIR	WILLIAMSON
MADISON	CLINTON
MONROE	CHRISTIAN
JASPER	MONTGOMERY
JACKSON	SHELBY
RICHLAND	RANDOLPH

ETHNIC/RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

RACE/ ETHNICITY	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.1%
Asian	0.9%
Black/African American	10.1%
Hispanic	5.6%
Multiracial	1.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.4%
White	80%
GRAND TOTAL	100%

SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS





DONOR ADVISED SCHOLARSHIPS

EMPOWER ILLINOIS IS GRATEFUL FOR DONORS WHO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE TO ILLINOIS FAMILIES

RISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For low-income and working-class families without a connection to private schools, learning about private school options and securing funds to pay tuition is not easy. The RISE Scholarship Program supports these families by offering scholarships to students who previously attended public schools and want to switch to their best-fit private school. The RISE Scholarship Program provides students with financial assistance up to \$5,000 per school year, if they qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Participating schools work to promote the RISE Scholarship opportunity and select qualifying students. Scholarship funding is generously provided and designated by anonymous donors who believe in expanding private school options to new students. Critical to expanding education opportunities, the RISE Scholarship Program also cultivates school-based advocacy. This scholarship and advocacy-integrated model connects students and schools with the community and governmental leaders who can learn from the students' experience to advance and scale policy innovation kids need and deserve.



279

SCHOLARSHIPS
61% RENEWING STUDENTS
39% NEW STUDENTS



44

SCHOOLS



\$603,912

IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS



\$32,118

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME, FAMILY OF FOUR

UNITED IN LOVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (UIL)

Designed to support students in emergency situations, the United in Love Scholarship provides students with a scholarship equal to their qualifying tax credit scholarship. Schools identify students who may be in need of emergency funds, facing severe financial hardship, or did not have their tax credit scholarship renewed. Scholarship funding is provided and designated by donors who seek to provide students with educational stability.



245

SCHOLARSHIPS



9

SCHOOLS



\$361,795

IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS



\$34,242

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOME, FAMILY OF FOUR





EMPOWER FAMILIES

97% of families were 'extremely satisfied' or 'very satisfied' about their decision to pursue a tax credit scholarship at their best-fit school.



MONIQUE H., MOTHER

I wasn't sure how I would have paid for private school without the scholarship. I told my daughter we should keep in mind the scholarship is not guaranteed, and she'll have to cut back on some of her activities if we have to pay tuition. When we got the news she received a scholarship, I was just so overwhelmed. I wish more people knew about these programs that can help people go to the school of their choice. I tell my friends and family this program is just amazing.



LORENA M., MOTHER

As immigrants, the opportunity to have a quality education brought us renewed vision that the young people in my family can contribute to this beautiful country, and we need them well prepared for the challenges ahead. Thank you so much for opening the doors, not only for my son, but for all the students who need the support and opportunities to contribute to this country with the best of their abilities.



LUIS M., FATHER

My family decided that my daughter should attend a Catholic school because we did not want her to have a tough time at school. My aunt, my uncle, my girlfriend, and grandmother all pitched in to help with tuition. Although it was hard to scrape the money together, it was worth it because it gave her a great support system. For anyone considering donating, please know the opportunity to receive a scholarship could really help turn someone's life around.



VERONICA J., MOTHER

It was a very special moment when I was informed that we received an Empower Illinois scholarship. Thanks to your help, my daughter was able to finish elementary school at St. James Lutheran School. We are very grateful and we encourage people to seek help so that our children have opportunities because every child deserves a good education.



RICH G., FATHER

My wife did a lot of research looking for any source of financial aid, and thankfully we found the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. We did not receive scholarships the first two years we applied, but we kept trying, and this past school year received awards. It was such a blessing. It's been amazing. We are determined to give our daughters the best education possible, and we are so grateful that the Tax Credit Scholarship Program has allowed us to do that.



SYMARA M., MOTHER

It was such a relief to know my child will be able to attend her first-choice school and I won't have to cover everything. The school staff has really embraced us like family, too. We know she will be in her element. Our children deserve to go to a school that will allow them to thrive. I am so eternally grateful for people who show they value education by contributing to this program, and every dollar helps our students.

EMPOWER SCHOOLS

EMPOWER ILLINOIS IS FORTUNATE TO PARTNER WITH **92%** OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS TO OFFER APPLICANTS DIVERSE, QUALITY EDUCATION OPTIONS.

761 

TOTAL NUMBER
OF SCHOOLS

443 

SCHOOLS WITH
SCHOLARSHIPS

437 

TOTAL SCHOOLS
VISITED IN 2022

STUDENTS APPLIED TO **598** SCHOOLS ACROSS THE STATE

\$6,579

AVERAGE
SCHOLARSHIP
AMOUNT



67%

STUDENTS
QUALIFIED FOR
100% AWARD

2X MORE MONEY WAS DONATED TO FUND
K-8 SCHOLARSHIPS THAN HIGH SCHOOL

249

SCHOOLS INCREASED THE
NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING
A TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP

94

SCHOOLS RAISED ENOUGH FUNDS
FOR THEIR ENTIRE WAITLIST



9

AVERAGE
AWARDEES
PER SCHOOL

31

AVERAGE
APPLICANTS
PER SCHOOL

10

AVERAGE
DONATIONS
PER SCHOOL

St Paul Early Childhood Center Our Lady of the Snows School Pythagoras Childrens Academy Grace Christian Academy Broken But Not Shattered Academy Unity Lutheran Christian School St Philip Neri School St Christina Annunciation School St George School St Agnes School St Peter and Paul School Heritage Leadership Academy Holy Family Parish School St Mary Immaculate School Quincy Notre Dame High School Hanna Sacks Bais Yaakov High School Old St Marys School Holy Childhood School St Rita High School MCC Academy **CREEK ORTHODOX** Kingswood Academy Sacred Heart Schools Academy High St Malachy School Lake Forest Academy St Emily School St Boniface Pope Francis Global Academy South St James Catholic School Maternity BVM School St Paul of the Cross School Trinity High School Faith Bible Christian Academy Peru Catholic School System ASB Educational Institute Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School Arie Crown Hebrew Day School Aurora Christian Schools Notre Dame College Prep **CATHOLIC** The Academy at St Joan of Arc St Johns Lutheran Parochial School Vision Way Christian School Beacon Academy St Jerome School Cathedral of St Raymond School St Francis/Holy Ghost School Our Lady of Tepeyac Wheaton Academy St Catherine of Alexandria Alpine Academy St Ann Elementary School STUDYS Ministries Christian Academy St Benedict Elementary School Chicago Hope Academy Queen of All Saints School Spectrum School Cross Lutheran School Sunrise Montessori Academy Trinity Lutheran Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School Christ the King St Matthew School Infant Jesus of Prague Grace English Lutheran School Foundations 4 Advancement Leo High School Ascension School St Thomas of Canterbury Chicago West Side Christian School Carroll Catholic School Visitation Catholic School Pope St John Paul II St Rita of Cascia Marian Catholic High School **INDEPENDENT** Chicago Academy for the Arts Holy Angels School Farm and Nature Discovery School Good Shepherd Lutheran Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School St Paul the Apostle St Francis Xavier Illinois Lutheran St Hubert School St Academy St Mary of the Woods School Annunciata School Chaim Cember Shaarei Chinuch Day School Holy Family Catholic School Mulberry School St Bridget School St Gabriel Rockford Christian Lutheran School Bethel Lutheran School St Louis Catholic School Saints Yaakov High School of Chicago Bethany Lutheran School Valeo Academy Lab School Joliet Montessori School Calvary Christian School St Angela Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory School Governor French Academy Nativity Notre Dame School St Daniel the Prophet Montessori Elementary Chicago Jesuit Academy Humboldt Park Montessori All Saints Academy Academy St Elizabeth of the Trinity St John the Evangelist School St School Fenwick High School St Elizabeth School Our Lady of Perpetual Classical Academy **JEWISH** Schaumburg Christian School Lady of Guadalupe De La Salle Institute St John the School St Anastasia Parkview Christian Academy Chaim Sager Solomon Schechter Day School Academy St Alexander School St John Neumann Lutheran St Francis De Sales Alcuin Montessori Providence Catholic High School St Margaret Mary Peace St John Lutheran School Rockford Iqra School St School St Juliana School St Laurence High School School Marquette Catholic High School Nazareth Unity Christian School Kankakee Trinity Academy Huda Academy Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Metro-East Lutheran High School College Prep **ARTS** St Raphael School Sacrament Catholic School St Bede School The High School of St Thomas More Hadi School of Excellence Queen of the Providence Elite Scholars STEAM St Clare Catholic School **MONTESSORI** HS Roycemore School Fasman Yeshiva School Near North Montessori School High School First Baptist Academy Academy Christian School St Jude School McGivney Catholic HS St Clement School Mary St Lukes Christian Academy Universal Christian School Newman Central Catholic High Academy St Barnabas School Mater Dei High Isidore School St Sylvester St Ethelreda School St School ILEAD BSTEM Rockford Lutheran School Brickton School San Miguel/Back-of-the-Yards Pope John XXIII Methodius St Philip the Apostle School Christian Life Center School Maryville Christian School St Teresa High School Montessori School Christian Liberty Academy Youthbuild Peace **CIFTED** St Viator High School Beardstown Christian Little Flower School Harvest Christian Academy St Paul Catholic Catholic Montessori Academy of North Hoffman Gibault High School Academy Chicago Jewish Day School Most Holy Redeemer School Costa Liguori Routt Catholic High School St Michael St Norbert School Mary Catholic High School Crystal Lake Montessori St Thomas School St Mark Academy St Margaret of Scotland School St Patricia School Notre McNamara Catholic School Chicago Christian High School Altus Odilo School Green Friends Montessori School **SECULAR** St Jesuit High School Sacred Heart/Griffin High School Kikifers Preparatory School of America Altamont Lutheran Interparish St Gerald Bruno and Richard School Academic Mastery Academy St Robert Lake Academy **CHRISTIAN** Quad Cities Christian School Our Lady of Pilgrim Lutheran School Althoff Catholic High School Christian Fellowship Academy Queen of the Universe St Catherine of Siena-St Lucy St Isaac Jogues Daystar High School Oakdale Christian Academy St Pius V School Alphonsus Academy & Center Dennis and Joseph Catholic Academy St Ambrose School Our Lady Mt Carmel School Our Lady of Charity South Side Christian Academy Most Blessed Trinity Academy St Pius Academy Josephinum Academy Yeshivas Meor Hatorah Holy Cross School Lycée Français Germaine School Baker Demonstration School Notre Dame De La Salette Gurnee Christian Catholic School Trinity Catholic Academy Westminster Christian School St Raymond School Christian School St Walter — St Benedict Seton Catholic School Our Saviors Lutheran Elementary St Johns Lutheran School St Constance School Peoria Academy Yeshivas Tiferes School St Therese Chinese City Elementary Holy Cross Catholic School Augustus Tolton School Joan Dachs Bais Yaakov **BAPTIST** Calvin Christian School Vincent Gray Academy St John Lutheran Montessori School of Lake Forest Queen of Angels School St Thomas the Apostle Elementary Epiphany School **ENTREPRENEURIAL** Glenwood School Providence-St Mel School Cornerstone Christian School Yeshiva Ohr Borch St Vincent Ferrer Aqsa School St John Fisher St Peter School HOPE Excel Reaching the World Academy All Saints Catholic Academy Bethesda International Academy Jordan Catholic School St Bruno Rosary High School St Hilary School Wolcott School St Agnes of Bohemia St Philip Lutheran Northridge Preparatory School Berean Baptist Christian School Pike County Christian Academy Our Lady of Humility Decatur Christian School St Giles School Brother Rice High School St James School Our Saviour MCC Fully Recognized Time School Good Shepherd Christian Academy Lubavitch Girls High School St Mary of Gostyn School St Mary Star of the Sea St Edward Central Catholic St Bede Academy Our Lady of Grace Academy Our Lady of the Wayside Pope John Paul II Catholic School **BILINCUAL** Hellenic American Academy Keith Country Day School St Albert the Great School Immaculate Conception St Charles Borromeo New Life CC Academy St John of the Cross Concord Lutheran School Netivot Pathways Academy St John Vianney School Lutheran School of St Luke St Catherine of Siena St Joan of Arc Christ the King Lutheran School Mesivta Shaarei Adirim Midwest Deer Creek Christian School Loyola Academy Lutheran School Association St Petronille Lutheran High School St Jude Catholic School St Luke Catholic School St Catherine Laboure St James Lutheran School St John Brebeuf School St Zachary School **LUTHERAN** St Mary of the Lake School Aquin Catholic Schools Little Explorers Montessori Village Leadership Academy Ida Crown Jewish Academy Holy Family Catholic School Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School Plato Academy Mt Carmel High School St Peter Lutheran School Hales Franciscan High School St Michael the Archangel School Carmel Catholic High School Daarul Uloom Islamic School St Alphonsus - St Patrick Vandalia Christian Academy IC Catholic Prep St Andrew the Apostle School St Matthias/Transfiguration Sch St Procopius Elem School Noor Elementary Academy Furqaan Academy St Mary of the Angels St Linus School Yorkville Christian High School Willows Academy Christ Lutheran Keeper of the Keys Learning Institute St Mary School Calvary Academy **EMPOWERED**

EMPOWER DONORS

EMPOWER ILLINOIS IS FORTUNATE TO PARTNER WITH **92%** OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN ILLINOIS TO OFFER APPLICANTS DIVERSE, QUALITY EDUCATION OPTIONS.

3,553

TOTAL DONORS

1,221

NEW DONORS

\$14,440

AVERAGE DONATION

\$1,000

MOST COMMON DONATION

\$4,000

MEDIAN DONATION

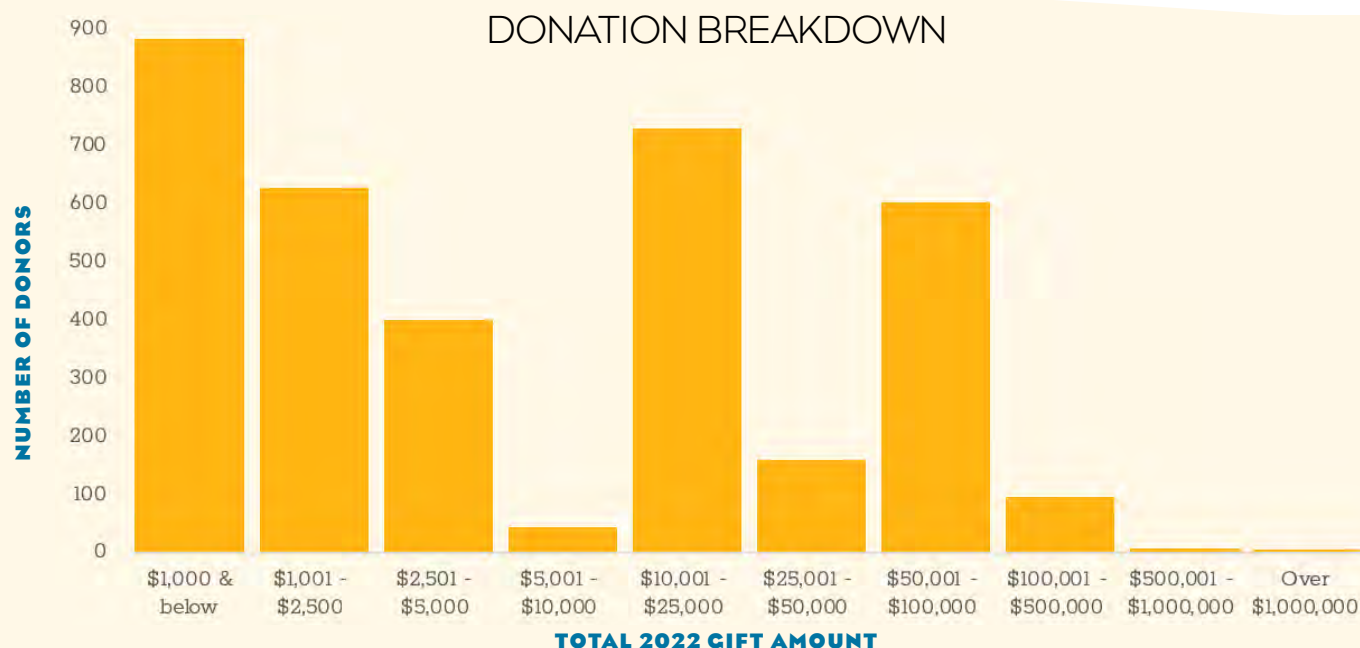


22%

of donors live in Chicago but donated to a school outside of Chicago

21%

of donors gave to more than one school



DONOR INSIGHTS

94%

OF DONORS INDICATED THEY
PLANNED TO GIVE TO THE TCS
PROGRAM AGAIN

49%

OF RETURNING DONORS
INDICATED THAT THEY
INCREASED THEIR DONATION
TO THE TCS PROGRAM

83%

OF DONORS INDICATED THE
TCS PROGRAM ALLOWED
THEM TO INCREASE THEIR
DONATIONS TO SCHOOLS
WHERE THEY WERE
PREVIOUSLY GIVING



MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Through partnerships with schools and at the wishes of individual donors, Empower Illinois is proud to have supported nine matching gift programs this year, which provided an even greater number of students with scholarships.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

In the beginning of the year, the Archdiocese of Chicago and a group of generous donors partnered with Empower Illinois for a 2:1 matching gift challenge. The match sought to engage new donors to the Tax Credit Scholarship Program and raise money early in the year, so families would have early notice about their children's scholarships.

113
SCHOOLS

384
DONORS
105 NEW
DONORS

1,494
AWARDS

\$9,506,772
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED

\$2,599,999
RAISED

\$5,199,999
MATCHED

\$1,706,774
EXCEEDED AVAILABLE MATCH

REGIONS 4 & 5 MATCH

In the spring of 2022, an anonymous donor sponsored a matching challenge for select Catholic schools in Regions 4 and 5. The match strategically engaged previously funded schools to cultivate their independent development skills and grow a new donor base.

63
SCHOOLS

217
DONORS
38 NEW
DONORS

365
AWARDS

\$1,728,000
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED

\$630,000
RAISED

\$630,000
MATCHED

\$468,000
EXCEEDED AVAILABLE MATCH

LAKE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

In the spring of 2022, a generous donor sponsored a 1:1 matching gift challenge for high quality, independent schools. The LMAIS schools worked to leverage the opportunity to engage their school communities in raising significant scholarship donations.

25
SCHOOLS

59
DONORS
24 NEW
DONORS

69
AWARDS

\$1,824,832
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED

\$666,666
RAISED

\$666,666
MATCHED

\$491,500
EXCEEDED AVAILABLE MATCH

SHARING OUR GIFTS

A group of generous donors from the Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier parish community created a 1:1 matching gift challenge to clear the scholarship waitlist at their sharing parish, St. Thomas of Canterbury School. With 95% of students' families living below the poverty line and 37 home languages spoken, St. Thomas of Canterbury School is committed to educating and embracing students from around the world and preparing them to be leaders.

39
DONORS
29 NEW
DONORS

150
AWARDS

\$805,300
TOTAL CONTRIBUTED

\$370,000
RAISED

\$370,000
MATCHED

\$65,300
EXCEEDED AVAILABLE MATCH

LOCAL MATCHING PROGRAMS

Matching gift challenges spark involvement and typically result in extremely successful school-based fundraising. Inspired by the success of early matching gift programs, local donors created five additional school community-based matches to continue growing the impact of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

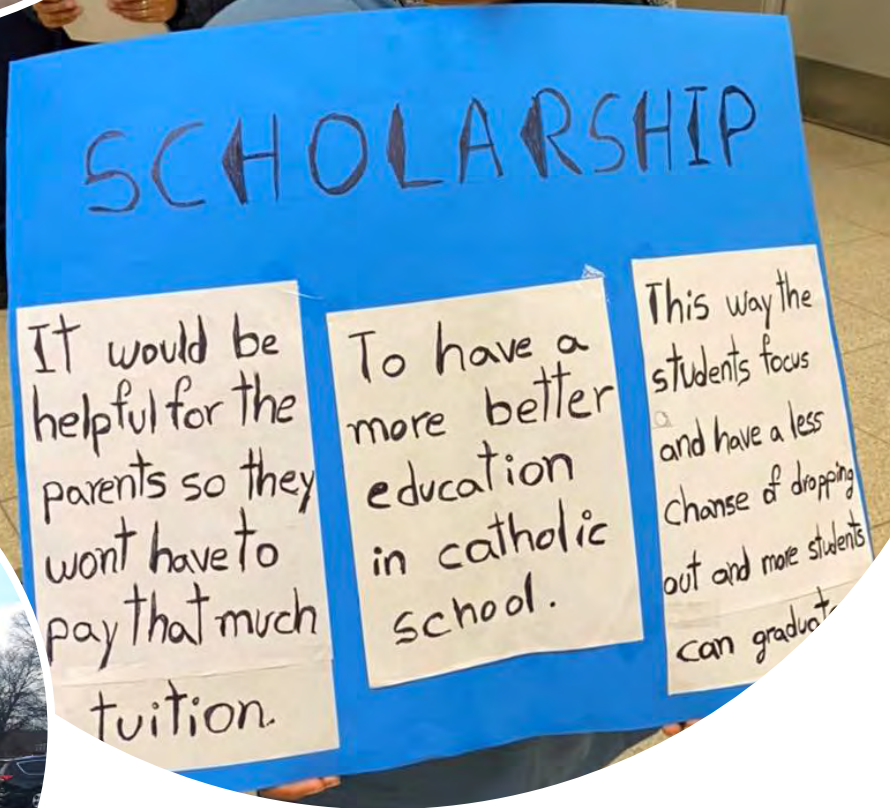
\$417,800
TOTAL RAISED

113
SCHOOLS

63
AWARDS

66
DONORS

41
NEW DONORS



FIGHTING FOR THEIR FUTURE

"I currently have two students on a tax credit scholarship from Empower Illinois. I have one student that has graduated as a recipient of the scholarship and is currently a sophomore at the University of Illinois. There is no way that I would be able to do this without the assistance of these scholarships. For my family and families like ourselves we absolutely need support to remove the sunset for the scholarships."

- Adriana Garcia, Champaign, IL, WMAY Radio

IF THE TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WERE TO SUNSET

82%

OF FAMILIES SAY THEY COULD NO LONGER
ATTEND BEST-FIT, SPECIALIZED SCHOOL OR
WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL JOBS

64%

OF SCHOOLS REPORTED THEIR FAMILIES
WOULD BE UNABLE TO ATTEND, OR
WOULD STRUGGLE TO FIND ALTERNATIVE
SCHOLARSHIPS



EMPOWER ADVOCACY

Engaging communities and empowering voices of families, kids, and educators drives Empower Illinois' work. Our team recognizes that those most impacted by the life-changing potential of a tax credit scholarship must be central to any discussion about the program's impact and future. We are proud to have supported these critical perspectives through community nights, messages to legislators, and op-eds published across the state.

In the spring, Empower Illinois and Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship Community pursued legislation to improve Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship Program. This broad coalition of supporters and advocates helped advance House Bill 4126—the first-ever stand-alone bill on the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program in Illinois history. Even more remarkable, these changes unanimously passed the Illinois House 114-0 and the Illinois Senate 55-0, a near impossible feat. With 42 Democratic and 23 Republican bill sponsors, the legislation also continued the tradition of strong bipartisan support for education investments seen when the Invest in Kids Act passed originally in 2017. The changes provide two important improvements: (1) help students remain in their best-fit school each year

thereby providing stability and reliability that will help families make critical educational and financial decisions; and (2) enable schools to offer partial scholarships to families in income tiers above 185% of the federal poverty level, which expands the need-based, tiered scholarship distribution model, while also protecting scholarships for students in the lowest-income tier.

In the fall, Empower Illinois coordinated families, schools, donors, and community groups across Illinois to visit Springfield and launch the #RemoveTheSunset campaign. When the Invest in Kids Act passed, it was a pilot program that is set to expire or sunset at the end of 2023. Empower Illinois and the broad, diverse, and authentic coalition that makes up the TCS Community are ready to fight on behalf of this program to make it permanent or extend the program. Thousands of families rely on tax credit scholarships to help their kids access their best-fit schools, and making the program permanent will create stability for current scholarship families and ensure that equitable education opportunities continue to grow for students across the state. As we enter 2023, removing the Invest in Kids Act sunset is a top priority.



15,561

**LETTERS WRITTEN TO
ILLINOIS LEGISLATORS**

79

**TCS PARTNER GROUPS
TRAVELED TO SPRINGFIELD**

100%

**OF ILLINOIS LEGISLATORS
REACHED BY ADVOCATES**

5,727

**ADVOCATES CONTACTED
THEIR ILLINOIS LEGISLATORS**

EMPOWER NEWS

Empower Illinois made local, national, and state headlines in 2022 as the media put a spotlight on the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Throughout the year, the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program and Empower Illinois were mentioned in

over 235 local and national news stories. Advocates for the program penned op-eds, local radio stations highlighted participating schools that benefited from TCS, and major TV stations showcased Illinois families looking for quality education options.

WORD FROM THE WEB



State Senator Andrew Chesney ✓

May 2, 2022 · 🌐

Enacted in 2017, the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides need-based scholarships to kids from low-income and working-class families to attend their best-fit school. This spring, I co-sponsored legislation to strengthen and extend Invest in Kids through 2024 and will continue to work on making the program permanent.



Ram Villivalam

@servillivalam

✓ I met with students and families from our 8th State Senate District who benefit from the Invest in Kids Act.



State Representative Avery Bourne

April 18, 2022 · 🌐

I am a proud school choice advocate and a strong supporter of this scholarship tax credit program. Every student in Illinois should have the opportunity to receive a great education regardless of where they live. I'm committed to both making the Invest in Kids Act permanent and working for ways to expand educational choice to more kids and families throughout Illinois.



State Representative Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar

December 5, 2022 · 🌐

During the last week of veto session, I had the opportunity to meet with the students and parents from @stgallsschool @stmarystarofsea St. Nicholas of Tolentine School to discuss the importance of #investinKidsAct. Thank you Empower Illinois for stopping by with an active and energetic group. It is important for me to always hear from the parents and students regarding access to educational opportunities in #IL22ndDistrict.

#BuildingCommunityIn22 #EducationInIL22ndDistrict Archdiocese of Chicago



THE EMPOWERER



OP-ED: THE INVEST IN KIDS ACT GIVES MINORITY CHILDREN ACCESS TO TOP-TIER SCHOOLS

By Daniel Lipinski. *Chicago Tribune*, February 2, 2022



"Fortunately, the Illinois General Assembly passed the bipartisan Invest in Kids Act in 2017 to reform the public school funding formula and create a tax credit scholarship program that provides up to a full scholarship for families that qualify based on financial need. These scholarships are funded through private donations that are eligible for a 75% state income tax credit. The average

scholarship recipient comes from a family of four making about \$38,000.

Since 2018, the Scholarship Tax Credit Program has funded more than 28,000 scholarships totaling over \$250 million, enabling students across Illinois to attend their best-fit school and have the opportunity to enjoy a life-changing education."

19 QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

By: *Sun-Times staff and WBEZ Chicago* ; Oct 18, 2022

"Do you support Illinois' tax credit scholarship program that provides financial support for students to attend private and parochial schools?"

"My main focus with respect to K-12 education is ensuring that there is sufficient funding for all children to receive a quality education, regardless of their zip

code. That's why I've dedicated an additional \$1.3 billion toward public education during my term. With assurance from the advocates for Invest in Kids that they will support increased public school funding, my budgets have ultimately included the relatively small Invest in Kids Scholarship Program." - Governor J.B. Pritzker

BILL TO IMPROVE INVEST IN KIDS ACT HEADS TO GOVERNOR

By WICS/WRSP Staff.

News Channel 20, April 8, 2022

"A statewide scholarship program designed to help children attend private school is getting an update.

The change to the Invest in Kids Act passed both the house and senate unanimously Thursday, April 7, 2022.

The Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides need-based scholarships to kids from low-income and working-class families to attend their best-fit school."

LOW-INCOME STUDENTS GET SCHOLARSHIPS TO PRIVATE K-12 SCHOOLS THROUGH EMPOWER ILLINOIS

By: John Pertzborn.

Fox2Now, January 28, 2022



"Low-income students may qualify for a generous scholarship to a private school k-12 and higher-income people who donate to the scholarship receive a large tax credit. It's a twofer called Empower Illinois. Anthony Holter is the president of Empower Illinois. He explained the details of the program and how to get involved."



Thank

You



TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM DONORS

Thank you to our Tax Credit Scholarship Program donors championing education opportunities for all kids. Your commitment has increased access to quality education for kids who need it most and transformed thousands of lives.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS CORPORATE MATCH DONORS

Thank you to the businesses who encourage investments in Illinois communities by matching their employees' charitable giving. Through these matching programs, an additional \$308,381 supported 40 Illinois schools.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS DONORS

Thank you to our charitable donors. Your generosity has funded the policy advancement and advocacy activities that make sweeping educational change possible. Empower Illinois' innovative technology, media and marketing work, and grassroots organizing would not be possible without your support.

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John and Rita Canning
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CNA
In Honor of Larry Cunningham
Michael Dawson
James Denny
Aimee and Ryan Donovan
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Thomas Floyd
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Marge and Ward Hamm
Tim and Cheryl Harms
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