



UPDATING TUITION AND FEES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN THE TUITION AMOUNT ON MY SCHOOL PARTICIPATION (SPA) BE UPDATED?

Yes, your school can change the tuition amount listed on your SPA. Your SPA is used to determine award amounts for all students who receive a tax credit scholarship at your school. If you increase your SPA, we will only be able to adjust student scholarships that have already been awarded if your school has available funds. Any scholarships that are made after the update to your SPA will use the new tuition to determine the award amounts for each student. If you have already submitted your school's SPA for this school year, please contact Empower Illinois (schools@empowerillinois.org, 800-616-7606).

CAN THE TUITION AMOUNT ON MY SCHOOL COMMITMENT FORM (SCF) BE UPDATED?

Yes, your school can change the tuition amount listed on a student's SCF, as long as your students' full award percentages are honored. We can only increase an SCF if your school has available funds. If you would like to adjust the SCF for any student who is in Funding Confirmed status, please contact Empower Illinois (schools@empowerillinois.org, 800-616-7606).

CAN MY SCHOOL PROVIDE CONTINGENCY AID TO FAMILIES IN THE EVENT THEY DO NOT RECEIVE A TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP FROM EMPOWER ILLINOIS?

Yes. A school can provide tuition assistance for a family waiting for a tax credit scholarship from Empower Illinois, and can recover those funds if the family receives a scholarship. Therefore, if your school is providing financial aid to a family in line for a scholarship, the tuition amount entered on your SCF does not need to remove the contingency aid that was provided to the family, as long as your school is not charging Empower Illinois more than you would a standard family.

The school cannot acquire funds from both Empower Illinois and the family that exceed the stated tuition amount. If a family receives a 100% scholarship from Empower Illinois, but they have already paid tuition at their school prior to receiving a scholarship, the family must be reimbursed for their payments.

MY SCHOOL'S DESIGNATED BALANCE IS JUST SHORT OF THE AMOUNT FOR A SCHOLARSHIP. CAN OUR SCHOOL ACCEPT THE NEXT STUDENT IN LINE AT A REDUCED TUITION AMOUNT?

Yes, you may reduce the tuition for the next student in line to use your remaining designated balance. To do this, please complete this [form](#) to update the SPA for the specific student and email it to us at schools@empowerillinois.org. Please note that if you decrease a student's tuition, you are accepting a lower rate for that specific student, and cannot ask the family to make up the difference.

WHAT DOES "TUITION AND FEES" COVER?

Tuition and Fees can include costs charged to all school families as part of your school's stated cost. Costs covered by the tax credit scholarship must be associated with the cost to educate a student, such as, Tuition, Books, Required Supplies, Uniforms, Other Fees (for extra-curricular activities) and Testing. Any fees related to registration/enrollment/graduation one-time fees, refundable deposits, or fees otherwise related to the operation of the educational institution cannot be included and are the responsibility of the parent/custodian/guardian.