

Subject: Illinois Tax Credit Program: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing about a very exciting opportunity for our families. As you may have heard, in late 2017, the Illinois Legislature created the income-based Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program to ensure all children have access to a quality education. This scholarship program will make K-12 private schools an option for thousands of kids. These scholarships will provide children and their families with opportunities that otherwise wouldn't be available. Scholarships are based on financial need.

We want to encourage all families, especially those who are currently receiving financial aid, to research this opportunity to see if this is a fit for your family, and apply!

Empower Illinois will begin accepting student applications for tax credit scholarships on January 24, 2018. The application portal is available at <https://empowerillinois.org/>

You can begin the process now by going to <https://empowerillinois.org/> to learn more about this program, and also by beginning to collect the following documents:

- Copy of 2016 federal tax return, 1099, W-2 or year-end pay stubs.
- Verification of Illinois residence (utility bill, driver's license etc.).
- Documentation of student age (birth certificate, federal/state ID or passport).
- Student's prior semester report card.
- If available, letter of acceptance or enrollment at an eligible school.

The funds are available on a first come, first served basis, so we are encouraging families to apply early in the day on January 24, 2018. We are currently working on having a computer lab secured at SHG and volunteers on hand to help our families through this process.

We will be providing more information as it becomes available.

Thank you!