

## Illinois State Tax Credit Scholarship Application Information

*As of December 11, 2017*

Below outlines Illinois State Tax Credit Scholarship application information, per Empower Illinois, the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) that represents all elementary and high schools in the Diocese of Illinois.

Starting January 31, 2018, families can apply for a scholarship through the Empower Illinois Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO). Visit <https://empowerillinois.org/> to apply.

### DO I QUALIFY?

K-12 students from low-income families are eligible to receive a Tax Credit Scholarship. See the chart below for more details.

From January 31, 2018 to April 2018 priority will be given to students who:

- Are members of a household whose previous year’s total annual income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level; or
- Reside within a focus district. See the list of focus districts by clicking this link: <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/sos-focus-schools-fy16.pdf>

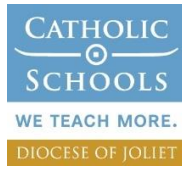
After April 1, all other qualifying students will be considered for scholarships.

#### **2017 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) Chart**

Household Members	185% FPL	250% FPL	300% FPL
1	\$22,311	\$30,150	\$36,180
2	\$30,044	\$40,600	\$48,720
3	\$37,777	\$51,050	\$61,260
4	\$45,510	\$61,500	\$73,800
5	\$53,243	\$71,950	\$86,340
6	\$60,976	\$82,400	\$98,880
7	\$68,709	\$92,850	\$111,420
8	\$76,442	\$103,300	123,960

*Note: If more than eight people in your household, add \$4,180 for each additional person.*

For 2018-2019 scholarships, 2016 federal adjusted gross income is the basis. This amount does not include the income of children under 18 attending elementary or secondary school on a full-time basis. Foster children are deemed to have a household income that does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level.



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### HOW DO I APPLY?

**Students and families can apply starting January 31, 2018.**

Visit <https://empowerillinois.org/> and Click “Apply” under the “Student” section. Translations are available in Spanish and Polish.

The application process will take about 15-20 minutes. Use the checklist below to gather everything you will need before you begin.

#### Application Checklist:

- ✓ A copy of your family’s **2016** federal tax return. If you did not file a 2016 tax return, please contact Empower Illinois <https://empowerillinois.org/about/contact/>
- ✓ Proof of Illinois residency, such as:
  - Current utility bill
  - Current driver license
- ✓ Documentation of the student’s age, such as:
  - A copy of the student’s birth certificate
  - Federal or State ID
  - A passport
- ✓ The student’s prior semester report card (unless beginning school for the first time)
- ✓ If available, a letter of acceptance or enrollment at an eligible, participating, non-public school.
  - **All Diocese of Joliet elementary and high schools are included as a participating, non-public school in the Empower Illinois Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO).**

### The Process

1. Families submit a complete application starting January 24, 2018.
2. Families are notified of their application status.
3. Students begin school admission and enrollment process. \*
4. Scholarship award notifications are sent to families beginning in February and continue until available funds are used.
5. Funds will be distributed to schools at the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Empower Illinois will work directly with schools and organizations to distribute funds.

\*The school admission process is separate from the scholarship process. A scholarship does not guarantee admittance.