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Indiana Department of Education

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Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Choice Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements
2015-2016 School Year
February 24, 2015

To be eligible, a student must satisfy each of the following three requirements:

1. Have legal settlement in Indiana;
2. Be between the ages of 5 and 22 no later than August 1 of the school year; and
3. Be accepted for enrollment into a participating Choice Scholarship school;

After satisfying the three requirements listed above, a student must satisfy the requirements for one of the eligibility pathways. The seven pathways, labeled A through G, are outlined below. A student must satisfy the requirements for only one of the seven pathways to be eligible.

A. Continuing Choice Scholarship Student Pathway

i. The student received a Choice Scholarship in the school year that immediately precedes the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.
ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 200% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

B. Previous Choice Scholarship Student Pathway

i. The student received a Choice Scholarship in a school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.
ii. The student received a Choice Scholarship in the immediately preceding school year but the student exited the Choice School prior to the end of the school year.
iii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

C. Previous SGO Award Pathway

i. The student received an SGO Scholarship in a previous school year, including a school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.
ii. The six approved Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) are:
    - Elkhart County Community Foundation
    - Institute for Quality Education (Formerly Educational Choice Charitable Trust)
    - School Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana
    - Tuition Assistance Fund of Southwestern Indiana (Closed)
    - Sagamore Institute Scholarships for Education Choice
    - The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana
iii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

D. Special Education Pathway

i. The student has a disability that requires special education.

ii. An individualized education program (IEP) pursuant to IC 20-35 or a service plan pursuant to 511 IAC 7-34 has been developed for the student.

iii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 200% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

E. "F" Public School Pathway

i. The student would be required to attend a specific public school based on their residence that has been assigned an "F" grade. Note: This pathway does not require prior attendance at the school.

ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

F. Two-Semesters in Public School Pathway

i. The student was enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school, including a charter school, in Indiana for at least two semesters immediately preceding the first semester for which the individual receives a Choice Scholarship.

ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

G. Sibling Pathway

i. The sibling of the newly applying student received either a Choice Scholarship or an SGO scholarship in a preceding school year, including a school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for a Choice Scholarship.

ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 150% of the amount to qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

Clarifications:

- Kindergarten students are eligible to apply.
- Kindergarten attendance satisfies the two semesters in public school requirement.
- The A through F grades issued in the fall of 2014 for school performance in the 2013-2014 school year will be used to determine the F schools for eligibility purposes for the 2015-2016 Choice Scholarship Program.
- For purposes of the Choice Scholarship Program, the term "sibling" shall mean one of two or more individuals having one **or** both parents, guardians or custodians in common. The term does not require a consanguineous (blood) relationship between the individuals.
- To be eligible under the sibling pathway, the student's sibling had to receive a Choice Scholarship or SGO award in a previous year.