

Choice Scholarship Program Pathway Eligibility Requirements 2017-2018 School Year

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

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

After satisfying the requirements listed above, a student must meet both income requirements and student eligibility requirements to be eligible for a Choice Scholarship. If the student meets the household income requirements, there are eight different pathways that enable a student to become eligible to participate in the Choice Scholarship Program. The eight pathways, labeled 1 through 8, are outlined below. A student must satisfy **ONLY ONE** of the eight pathways to be eligible for a Choice scholarship.

1. 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 required to have remained enrolled at the Choice School for the entirety of the immediately preceding school year.
- 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 seven approved Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) are:
 - Community Foundation of Elkhart County
 - Institute for Quality Education (Formerly Educational Choice Charitable Trust)
 - LaGrange County Community Foundation, Inc.
 - 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.

4. 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 (SP) 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.

5. “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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Pre-K Pathway

- i. The student received and used an Early Education Grant under IC 12-17.2-7.2 to attend Pre-K at an eligible Choice school.
- ii. The student is applying for a Choice Scholarship at the same Choice school they attend Pre-K with an Early Education Grant.
- iii. The student is a member of a household with annual income equal to or below 69% of Reduced Lunch Eligibility (127% of the Federal poverty level).

Clarifications:

- Kindergarten students are eligible to apply under the Special Education Pathway, the F Public School Pathway, the Sibling Pathway, or the Pre-K Pathway.
- Kindergarten attendance satisfies the two semesters in public school requirement.
- The A through F grades issued in December of 2016 for school performance in the 2015-2016 school year will be used to determine the F schools for eligibility purposes for the 2017-2018 Choice Scholarship Program.
- For purposes of the Choice Scholarship Program, the term “sibling” means one of two or more individuals having one **or** both parents, legal guardians or legal 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 must have received a Choice Scholarship or SGO Award in a **previous school year**.
- Please refer to the income guidelines posted on our website at www.doe.in.gov/choice for information regarding income eligibility.