

**Choice Scholarship Program
Pathway Eligibility Requirements
2018-2019 School Year**

What are the student eligibility criteria?

To be eligible, a student must satisfy each of the following 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
3. Be accepted for enrollment into a participating Choice Scholarship school

After satisfying the requirements listed above, there are eight different pathways that enable a student to be eligible to participate in the Choice Scholarship Program. The eight pathways, labeled 1 through 8, are outlined below. A student must satisfy the requirements of only one of the eight pathways to be eligible. The income eligibility guidelines are posted on our website at www.doe.in.gov/choice.

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, and
- ii. The student is required to have remained enrolled at the Choice Scholarship school for the entirety of the immediately preceding school year, and
- 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

EITHER:

- i. The student received a Choice Scholarship in a previous school year that does not immediately precede the school year for which the student is applying for Choice Scholarship;

OR:

- ii. The student received a Choice Scholarship in the immediately preceding school year, but the student exited the Choice Scholarship school prior to the end of the school year;

AND:

- 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 Scholarship Granting Organization (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 approved Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) are:
 - Community Foundation of Elkhart County
 - Institute for Quality Education, Inc. (Formerly Educational Choice Charitable Trust)
 - LaGrange County Community Foundation, Inc.
 - Professional Athletes of Indiana
 - Sagamore Institute Scholarships for Education Choice
 - School Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana

- The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana
- Tuition Assistance Fund of Southwestern Indiana (Closed February 2013)

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**

- The student has a disability that requires special education services;
- An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) pursuant to IC 20-35 or a Service Plan (SP) pursuant to 511 IAC 7-34 has been developed for the student; and
- 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**

- The student would be required to attend a specific public school based on his/her residence that has been assigned an "F" grade. The list of F schools for Choice Scholarship eligibility is posted prior to the beginning of the school year. Note: This pathway does not require prior attendance at the school.
- 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 a Public School Pathway**

- 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; and
- 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**

- The sibling of the newly applying student received either a Choice Scholarship or 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; and
- 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**

- The student received and used an Early Education Grant under IC 12-17.2-7.2 to attend Pre-K at an eligible Choice Scholarship school.
- The student is applying for a Choice Scholarship at the same Choice Scholarship school in which they attended Pre-K with an Early Education Grant.
- The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 69% of reduced lunch eligibility (127% of the federal poverty level).

Clarifications

- Currently, the only Early Education Grant that satisfies the requirements is On My Way Pre-K.
- The A through F grades issued in October of 2017 for school performance in the 2016-2017 school year will be used to determine the F schools for eligibility purposes for the 2018-2019 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.