

### **Step 5—Wait for approval and funding**

Scholarship award notifications are sent by the SGO to families beginning in February and continue until available funds are used.

The Invest in Kids Act provides for \$100 million in scholarship funds across the state if the program is fully funded. The funding for the scholarships comes from donations from businesses and individuals. Those donors receive a 75% tax credit for their donation. Donations from a business stays in the region in which the business is located. Donations from individuals can be designated for scholarships to specific schools, but not specific students.



### **Step 6—If accepted and funded, complete the registration process.**

If you get that awesome notice from the SGO, congratulations! Now just contact Zion Lutheran School and complete the registration process!

**Applications can first be submitted on January 31, 2018.**

**Thousands are expected to apply.**

**The sooner you get your application in, the better the chance of your child's scholarship being funded.**

***Apply early!***

**E**very child deserves the chance to succeed. Zion Lutheran School and Empower Illinois want to make that possible by helping local families find the best education for their children. Let us make a difference in your child's life.

**FAMILIES OF K-12 STUDENTS CAN  
APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS  
BEGINNING JANUARY 31, 2018.**

Tax Credit Scholarships are need-based and do not take academic performance into consideration.



**Zion Lutheran School  
408 East Jackson Street  
Marengo, IL 60152  
[www.zionschool.net](http://www.zionschool.net)  
815-568-5156**

# Invest in



*Every child  
deserves a chance  
to succeed!*

**Applying for  
a scholarship**



## Do you want a choice for your child's education?

## Do you want your child to attend a private school?

In 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 makes K-12 private schools an option for thousands of kids.

You now have an opportunity to apply for a scholarship for your child to attend a non-public school. If your family qualifies for Free or Reduced lunch (according to federal guidelines), you could qualify for 50, 75, or 100% of necessary tuition and fees to send your child to a private school of your choice.

Applications can be submitted beginning on January 31. The sooner you get your application in, the better the chance of your child's scholarship being funded as they will be awarded on a first come, first served basis until the money runs out. **Apply early!**



### STEPS TO APPLYING

- 1) Determine if you are eligible
- 2) Pick a Scholarship Granting Organization
- 3) Complete the online application
- 4) Apply to the private school of your choice
- 5) Wait for approval and funding
- 6) If accepted and funded, complete the registration process



Eligibility to receive a scholarship is based on your family's household income. For example, you could receive a tax credit scholarship if you make less than \$73,800 a year and are a family of 4 or less.

Household size	100% Tuition & Fees	75% Tuition & Fees	50% Tuition & Fees
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
9	\$84,175	\$113,750	\$136,500
10	\$91,908	\$124,200	\$149,040

Residents in a Focus District get preferential treatment. Focus districts are public school districts which have a school where at least one subgroup of students performs in the bottom 10% statewide or a graduation rate of less than 60%. Harvard is a focus district.

### Step 2—Pick a SGO

Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO) accept applications and match funding from donors to the recipients. SGOs have to be approved by the state.

The SGO of choice for Zion Lutheran School is Empower Illinois. Their website is [empowerillinois.org](http://empowerillinois.org).



The application process is all online. Families can apply beginning on January 31, 2018. 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, contact us.
- ◇ Proof of Illinois residency, such as a current utility bill or current drivers license.
- ◇ Documentation of the student's age, such as a copy of the student's birth certificate, federal or state ID, or 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.

### Step 4—Apply to the Private School of your choice

Only schools that are recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education are eligible to receive students with Invest in Kids scholarships. Zion Lutheran School is eligible.

School personnel will also help families complete the online application through Empower Illinois.

Contact Dr. Dan Bertrand or Mrs. Merri-lyne Seaburg, Co-Principals at [principal@zionschool.net](mailto:principal@zionschool.net) or at 815-568-5156 or at our website [www.zionschool.net](http://www.zionschool.net) for more information.