



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Recommendation to the Commission

**Party Submitting Recommendation:** Educational Outcomes Task Force

**Date of Submission:** 12/7/2022

**Type of Action Requested:**

Legislation     Administrative Rule or Policy     Resolution of Support or Endorsement     Professional/skills development

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance (check all that apply):**

Child Health and Safety     Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth  
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse     Educational Outcomes

**Summary of Recommendation:**

The Educational Outcomes Task Force asks the Commission to endorse the Indiana Commission for Higher Education's 2022 recommendation to automatically confirm eligible students' low-income status for initial enrollment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program as 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Streamlining application procedures will assist low-income families and free up resources to promote the program and support students in completing mandatory activities, such as the Scholar Success Program.

**Background of Recommendation:**

What is the need or problem, and how does it impact disparate populations?

Data shows that participation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program improves low-income students' access and completion of postsecondary education. Scholars matriculate at higher rates than all Indiana students, regardless of income. They are also more likely to persist and complete postsecondary than their low-income peers. By removing barriers to enrollment in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, more low-income students will receive support while in high school and be able to earn a scholarship for education after high school.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

<https://www.in.gov/che/data-and-research/reports-and-analyses/21st-century-scholars-report/>

What disproportionality did the data reveal?

Low-income students are less likely to matriculate to college and those who do are less likely to persist and graduate. Enrollment in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars helps change that outcome.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

Currently, eligible students must apply to the program during their seventh or eighth grade year.

What solution is the recommender proposing, and how does it affect disparate populations?

Streamlining the process to auto-enroll eligible students will free up resources to support students throughout high school to help them prepare for education beyond high school. The scholarship removes much of the financial barriers that low-income students face. Auto-enrollment will have the biggest benefit for the most vulnerable youth—those whose families may have barriers to completing the application process during the current narrow window.

How does the solution address the disproportionality in the data?

Because Scholars are more successful than their low-income peers, this change would give more students the opportunity to receive support and financial aid.

**Implementation:**

Who is responsible for implementing the recommendation?

The Commission for Higher Education

Has the recommendation been discussed with the implementer?

Yes       No

What is the recommended timeframe for the Commission to review implementation?

6 months     12 months     18 months     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.**