



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

## Choice Scholarship Program Track Eligibility Requirements 2021-2022 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

*After satisfying the requirements listed above, there are eight different tracks that enable a student to be eligible to participate in the Choice Scholarship Program. The eight tracks are outlined below. A student must satisfy the requirements of only one of the eight tracks to be eligible. A complete explanation of each of the eight eligibility tracks can be found in the documents explaining each track posted at [www.in.gov/doe/students/indiana-choice-scholarship-program](http://www.in.gov/doe/students/indiana-choice-scholarship-program), in the Student Eligibility section.*

### Previous Choice Scholarship Student Track

- i. The student received a Choice 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.;

AND

- ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 300% of the amount to qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program.

### Previous Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) Award Track

- 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. 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. (no longer participating, effective January, 2020)
- 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)

AND

- ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 300% of the amount to qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program.

### Special Education Track

- i. The student has a disability that requires special education services;
- ii. 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
- iii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 300% of the amount to qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program.

### **"F" Public School Track**

- i. 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; and
- ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 300% of the amount to qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program.

### **Two Semesters in a Public School Track**

- 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; and
- ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 300% of the amount to qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program.

### **Sibling Track**

- i. 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
- ii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 300% of the amount to qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program.

### **Pre-K Track**

- 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 in which they attended Pre-K with an Early Education Grant; and
- iii. The student is a member of a household with an annual income equal to or below 300% of the amount to qualify for the Federal Free or Reduced Price Lunch Program.

### **Foster Track**

- i. A student must be placed in foster care, as defined in IC 31-9-2-46.7. The child's placement must be supported by a letter from a Department of Child Services (DCS) case worker that is signed and dated during the 2021 calendar year.
- ii. Foster children are automatically income eligible for the Choice Scholarship Program and do not require household size and income. Supporting documentation of foster care must be provided at the time of application.

### **Clarifications**

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- Currently, the only Early Education Grant that satisfies the requirements is On My Way Pre-K.
- The "A" through "F" grades issued for school performance in the 2019-2020 school year will be used to determine the "F" schools for eligibility purposes for the 2021-2022 Choice Scholarship Program.
- The "F" Public School Track does not require prior attendance at the school.
- 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 Track, the student's sibling must have received a Choice Scholarship or SGO award in a previous school year.
- An SGO award must be at least five hundred dollars (\$500) in order for a student, or the student's sibling, to qualify later for a Choice Scholarship under the Previous SGO Track. This rule only applies to a student or a sibling of the student who receives an SGO award for the first time after June 30, 2013 and otherwise meets the income eligibility requirements of the program.