

## Choice Scholarship Program 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, there are seven different pathways that enable a student to become eligible to participate in the Choice Scholarship Program. The seven pathways, labeled 1 through 7, are outlined below. A student must satisfy **ONLY ONE** of the seven pathways to be eligible.

### 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.

#### **Clarifications:**

- Kindergarten students are eligible to apply under the Special Education Pathway, the F Public School Pathway, or the Sibling 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” shall mean 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**.