

**Pennsylvania's
Education Tax Credit
Scholarships:**

**HOW EITC SERVES
CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES IN THE
COMMONWEALTH**

2ND EDITION

RACHEL LANGAN

SENIOR EDUCATION POLICY ANALYST

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Author

Rachel Langan SENIOR EDUCATION POLICY ANALYST

Rachel Langan is the Senior Education Policy Analyst at the Commonwealth Foundation. Langan graduated from West Chester University with a degree in Elementary Education and obtained her Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh. After more than a decade as the school librarian at two of the top-rated school districts in Chester County, Pennsylvania, Langan now dedicates her efforts to grassroots public school policy reforms, both at the state and the local level, with published articles in *Real Clear Pennsylvania*, *Broad + Liberty*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Editor

Elizabeth Stelle VICE PRESIDENT OF POLICY

Elizabeth Stelle is the Vice President of Policy at the Commonwealth Foundation. A graduate of Grove City College, Stelle has researched and written on government reform, health care, welfare, energy, and government transparency. Her work has featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Patriot-News*, and *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and she has appeared on a variety of radio and television programs throughout the commonwealth.

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Key Findings

- Pennsylvania’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) are state tax credit programs that **provide over 100,000 students from low- to middle-income families access to high-quality schools of their choice.**
- **Scholarship organizations awarded 101,751 K–12 scholarships in 2023–24, up 16,181 from the previous year.**
- Unfortunately, the demand for scholarships outpaces the supply. Tax credit caps, set each year by the state legislature, forced scholarship organizations to deny close to 69,000 student scholarship applications.
- This year marks the 25th birthday of the EITC program, one of the oldest programs in the nation. Since its inception in 2001, over 1 million scholarship awards have given Pennsylvania students an “opportunity to succeed.”
- Currently, students in all **67 counties** attend a K–12 private school on an EITC or OSTC scholarship.¹
- Effective July 1, 2025, Pennsylvania law requires schools and/or scholarship organizations to collect added data on scholarship recipients, including whether they have a disability; their school district of residence; and the school attended in the previous year. The Commonwealth Foundation’s next edition of this report will incorporate these new data points.
- The largest Catholic diocese in terms of population in Pennsylvania—the Archdiocese of Philadelphia—distributes the most EITC scholarships in Pennsylvania. Archdiocesan data indicates that tax credit scholarships empower low-income families in low-achieving schools with an alternative education for their children. **Most families receiving tax credit scholarships earn below the median income level for their respective counties, and, among its five counties, those with the most low-achieving public schools have the highest number of scholarship recipients.**

Introduction

Tax credit scholarship programs **fulfill a core need for low- to middle-income students in Pennsylvania.** The data in this report demonstrates the unmet demand for the EITC and OSTC programs. Expanding tax credit scholarships, along with other new state and federal scholarship programs, are vital to improving access to educational opportunity for the children and families of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

¹ This report offers partial data on dual award recipients, yet it does not quantify the possibility of students applying to multiple scholarship organizations.

Section 1: Tax Credit Scholarships, an Investment in Educational Opportunity

SUMMARY

Pennsylvania scholarship organizations awarded 101,751 K–12 scholarships through the EITC and OSTC programs in the 2023–24 school year (the most recent state data available), more than any state except Florida and Arizona—demonstrating real-world reach that rivals or exceeds many states with universal education choice programs. In fact, 5.1 percent of all K–12 students attending school in Pennsylvania benefit from tax credit scholarships.

In 2001, Pennsylvania was one of the first states to fund tax credit scholarships. Since that time, Pennsylvania’s tax credit scholarship programs have provided 919,708 EITC scholarships and 140,965 OSTC scholarships, for a total of 1,060,673 scholarship awards over 25 years.

Tax credit scholarships are an investment to help children succeed. Funding is entirely through private donations and independent of the more than \$17.7 billion in state appropriations for public schools and \$38.6 billion in total revenue for school districts. The 2025–26 Pennsylvania budget caps tax credit scholarships at 3.24 percent of state funding for public schools.

The average tax credit scholarship award in 2023–24 was \$2,776, up from \$2,659 the previous year. Awards averaged \$2,702 for EITC and \$3,186 for OSTC. And, in the 2025–26 school year, the Economically Disadvantaged School (EDS) supplementary scholarships totaled \$1,500 per student for K–8 and \$3,000 for students in grades 9–12.

The EDS component of EITC provides supplementary scholarships for economically disadvantaged students attending a private school where a majority of students receive EITC. For the 2024–25 school year, 222 schools qualified as EDS, up from 131 the previous year.

Despite the overwhelming popularity of the programs and despite the tens of thousands of students wait-listed annually for these scholarships, in his 2026 executive budget, Gov. Josh Shapiro proposes “to reallocate the caps within the [EITC] program to provide more tax credits to Education Improvement Organizations.”² His plan is a funding shift away from tuition scholarships toward supplemental programs for public schools, libraries, the YMCA, and after-school clubs.

Pennsylvania lawmakers must address the overwhelming demand for tax credit scholarships—demonstrated by the scholarship applicant waitlists in the tens of thousands. This starts with preventing the governor from “repurposing” EITC funds. Moreover, they should increase funding caps on existing tax credits, create additional funding sources in the form of tax credits or education spending accounts, pressure Shapiro to opt in to the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC) program,³ and work to restructure Pennsylvania’s public school funding formula so that state dollars follow the student to the school of their choice.⁴

2 Gov. Josh Shapiro, “Governor Josh Shapiro: Budget in Brief 2026–2027” (Pennsylvania Office of the Budget, February 3, 2026), 32, <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/budget/documents/publications-and-reports/commonwealthbudget/2026-27-budget-documents/2026-27%20budget%20in%20brief.final.web.v.2.pdf>.

3 Commonwealth Foundation, “Federal Scholarship Tax Credit,” February 23, 2026, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/federal-scholarship-tax-credit/>.

4 Rachel Langan, “Rethinking School District Reserve Funds as Students Return to Class,” Commonwealth Foundation, August 25, 2025, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/rethinking-school-district-reserve-funds/>.

PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Pennsylvania's EITC and OSTC have grown to provide in 2023–24 over one hundred thousand scholarships to low- and middle-income students. These state tax credit programs enable Pennsylvania families to access the high-quality schools of their choice.

Students can apply for scholarships through local scholarship organizations in the fall for the following school year.

Families of scholarship applicants must earn below the household income limit of \$116,055, plus \$20,428 for each dependent;⁵ furthermore, OSTC applicants must also live within the attendance boundary of a low-achieving public school.⁶

Notably, starting with the 2025–26 school year, Pennsylvania law requires additional data points on EITC and OSTC recipients. The new reporting to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the agency administering the programs, includes whether recipients have a disability, their school district of residence, and the school attended in the previous year,⁷ which the Commonwealth Foundation will incorporate in the next edition of this report.

INCREASED DEMAND FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

New data—obtained by the Commonwealth Foundation from the DCED through Right to Know (RTK) requests—reveal the current impact of Pennsylvania's tax credit scholarship programs.

In 2023–24, K–12 students submitted 170,568 scholarship applications (Figure 1), 6,019 more than the previous year and the highest on record.

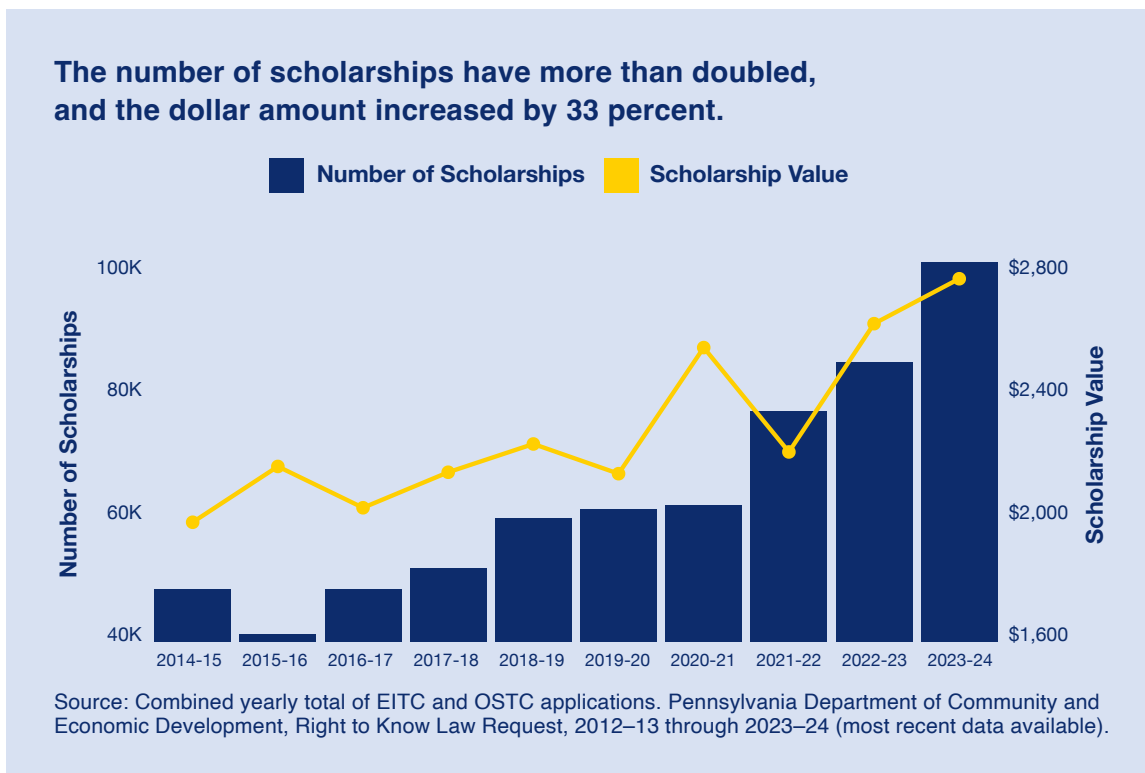
For the first time, scholarship organizations awarded 101,751 K–12 scholarships in a single year, with award recipients more than doubling in number over ten years.

5 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, "Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program: Organization Guidelines and Application for Scholarship and Educational Improvement Organizations," September 2025, <https://dced.pa.gov/download/eitc-organization-guidelines/?wpdmdl=84187>.

6 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, "Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC)," accessed August 28, 2025, <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program-ostc/>; Pennsylvania Department of Education, "Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program: Low Achieving Schools," accessed August 28, 2025, <https://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Opportunity%20Scholarship%20Tax%20Credit%20Program/Pages/default.aspx>.

7 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, "Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (OSTC)," accessed August 28, 2025, <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc/>; Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, "Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC)."

FIGURE 1: TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP OVER TEN YEARS



For the 2023–24 school year, scholarship organizations awarded 101,751 K–12 scholarships, up more than 16,000 from the previous year’s 85,570, to students **in all 67 Pennsylvania counties.**

The average K–12 tax credit scholarship was \$2,776 (Figure 2), whereas the private school **median family contribution towards tuition in Section 5 is \$3,874 annually per student.**

In contrast, the latest data from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) shows the state’s average per-student spending for public school education for the same year reached \$23,061, up 44 percent since the 2014–15 school year.⁸

8 Commonwealth Foundation, “Pennsylvania School Funding Reaches \$23,000 per Student in 2024,” May 15, 2025, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/pennsylvania-school-funding-reaches-record-level/>; Pennsylvania Department of Education, Annual Financial Report (AFR) Data Files, 2013–14, and 2022–23, and 2023–24, <https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/School%20Finances/Finances/AFR%20Data%20Summary/Pages/default.aspx>.

FIGURE 2: TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP CAPS (K–12)

Year	Scholarships Awarded	Applications Denied	Average Scholarship	EITC	OSTC	EDS	Total
2016–17	48,977	52,857	\$1,885	\$75 million	\$50 million		\$125 million
2017–18	52,144	49,356	\$2,002	\$85 million	\$50 million		\$135 million
2018–19	60,387	42,918	\$2,113	\$110 million	\$50 million		\$160 million
2019–20	61,767	75,651	\$2,201	\$135 million	\$50 million	\$5 million	\$190 million
2020–21	62,507	76,031	\$2,534	\$135 million	\$50 million	\$5 million	\$190 million
2021–22	77,670	63,812	\$2,218	\$175 million	\$50 million	\$5 million	\$230 million
2022–23	85,570	79,979	\$2,633	\$263 million	\$65 million	\$12 million	\$340 million
2023–24	101,751	68,817	\$2,776	\$325 million	\$85 million	\$60 million	\$470 million
2024–25	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$375 million	\$90 million	\$60 million	\$525 million
2025–26	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$375 million	\$90 million	\$110 million	\$575 million

Source: Combined yearly total of EITC and OSTC applications. Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Right to Know Law Request, 2012–13 through 2023–24 (most recent data available).

ANNUAL GROWTH OF THE EITC PROGRAM

The latest DCED data on scholarship awards is for the 2023–24 school year. Meanwhile, there have been subsequent increases to the programs in recent years that this report does not reflect due to delays in agency reporting.

The 2023–24 Pennsylvania state budget saw the largest ever increase to tax scholarship programs, growing EITC and OSTC by \$150 million at the end of 2023,⁹ with another \$75 million added in the 2024–25 budget.¹⁰ Together, these increases provide approximately 48,000 additional scholarships, which a future report will examine.

For the 2025–26 school year, funding for EITC and OSTC remained flat; however, the EDS component of EITC nearly doubled, from \$50 million in 2024–25 to \$110 million, a historic increase expected to provide supplemental scholarships to 42,000 economically disadvantaged students across 57 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties.

Looking ahead, given that the current demand for Pennsylvania’s tax credit scholarship programs far exceeds supply, the waitlists will undoubtedly continue.

Shapiro’s budget plan for 2026–27 proposes to keep the EITC’s “overall cap ... unchanged.” However, the governor seeks to “repurpose,” or shift, cap assignments away from tuition scholarships toward tax credits for Education Improvement Organizations.¹¹ Supplemental

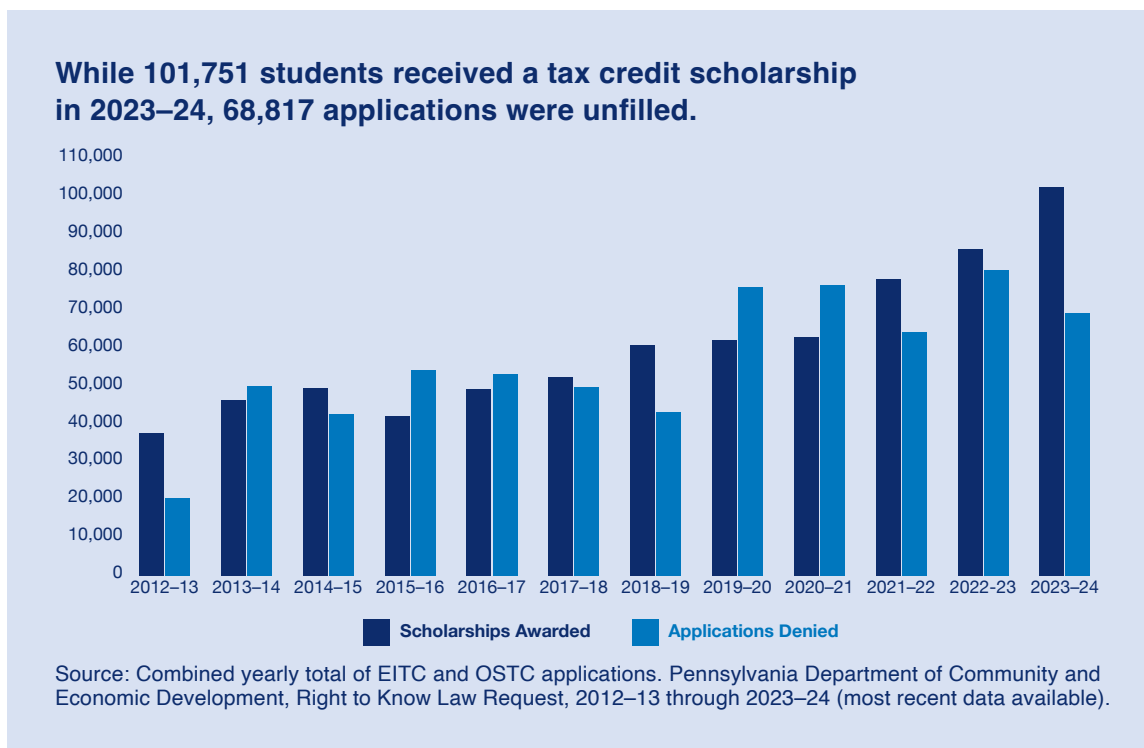
9 Rep. Patrick J. Harkins, 2023 Act 33, P.L. 187 (House Bill 301, Omnibus Amendments), Pennsylvania General Assembly, Regular Session 2023–24, December 13, 2023, <https://www.palegis.us/statutes/unconsolidated/law-information?sessYr=2023&sessInd=0&actNum=33>; Commonwealth Foundation, “Pennsylvania Legislature Passes Historic \$150M Increase in Education Tax Credit Programs,” news release, December 13, 2023, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/2023/12/13/pennsylvania-tax-credit-programs-increase/>.

10 Sen. Michele Brooks et al., 2024 Act 55, P.L. 618 (Senate Bill 700, Omnibus Amendments), Pennsylvania General Assembly, Regular Session 2023–24, July 11, 2024, <https://www.palegis.us/statutes/unconsolidated/law-information?sessYr=2024&sessInd=0&actNum=55>.

11 Shapiro, “Governor Josh Shapiro: Budget in Brief 2026–2027,” 32.

education programs are important, but the tens of thousands of Pennsylvania kids on EITC and OSTC waitlists must be the priority (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3: DEMAND FOR EITC/OSTC FAR OUTPACES SUPPLY



FISCAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Four out of 10 students (42.5 percent) attending private schools in Pennsylvania receive tuition assistance through EITC and OSTC.

Since 2020–21, Pennsylvania increased K–12 tax credit scholarship caps from \$190 million to \$575 million in 2025–26, tripling the funding available. These increases, when fully realized, will result in approximately 100,000 additional scholarships, with expectations projecting a 50 percent average increase per student in scholarship amounts.

In 2023–24, 11.8 percent, or 239,000, of Pennsylvania’s pre-K–12 students went to private schools,¹² and there were 101,751 tax credit scholarship awards for this student population.

Private schools educate students at a fraction of the \$23,061 public school districts spend per pupil. The current cap (i.e., the 2025–26 Pennsylvania budget) for the EITC and OSTC programs is \$630 million, with \$575 million for K-12 scholarships.¹³ The amount available for tax credit scholarships represents a small fraction of the \$42 billion in federal, state, and local tax dollars spent annually on public schools.

12 Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Enrollment Reports and Projections: Enrollment Private Nonpublic 2023–2024,” May 31, 2024, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Enrollment/Pages/PrivateNPEnrRpts.aspx>; Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Enrollment Reports and Projections: Public School Enrollments 2023–2024,” August 13, 2024, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Enrollment/Pages/PublicSchEnrReports.aspx>.

13 Brooks et al., 2024 Act 55 (Senate Bill 700).

OSTC scholarships—which, by design, are only available to students residing in the attendance boundary of low-achieving public school districts (as determined by PDE based on annual standardized assessments)—were more concentrated.

- Of the 15,517 OSTC scholarships awarded, two-thirds of recipients (66 percent) reside in Pennsylvania’s two most populous urban centers: Philadelphia (52 percent) and Allegheny County (14 percent).
- Another 14 percent live in the four counties bordering Philadelphia, and 21 percent in the remainder of the state.
- Statewide, 58 percent of OSTC scholarships were awarded to K–8 students, with an average award of \$2,335, compared with \$3,699 for high school students.

SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION DATA

There are more than 200 scholarship organizations across the state that receive tax credit donations and subsequently distribute EITC and OSTC scholarships to thousands of private schools.¹⁴ In turn, the schools award scholarships to low- and middle-income students.

Businesses and individuals who participate in the program donate and receive a 75 percent (one-year commitment) or 90 percent (two-year commitment) tax credit or tax refund against a maximum of \$750,000 on their annual state income tax liability.¹⁵

Notably, DCED’s EITC webpage states donations to pre-K scholarship organizations “may receive a tax credit equal to 100 percent of the first \$10,000 contributed and up to 90 percent of the remaining amount contributed up to a maximum credit of \$200,000 annually.”¹⁶ Furthermore, a new provision within the 2025–26 Pennsylvania budget omnibus School Code bill, passed in November 2025, expands EDS funding to pre-K eligible students, unlocking supplemental scholarships for preschoolers of up to \$2,000 per child annually beginning with the 2026–27 school year, making childcare more affordable for low-income families.¹⁷ Donors do not need to live within the geographic location of the scholarship organization or private school. Meanwhile, scholarship organizations can accept and distribute donations across the state and to multiple schools and students in multiple counties.

THE FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

On July 4, 2025, Congress passed America’s first-ever Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC) program, Section 70411 in the 2025 budget reconciliation bill, or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act.”

Governors must “voluntarily elect” to join the FSTC program, also commonly referred to as the Educational Choice for Children Act, the Federal Tax Credit Scholarship, or the Educational Freedom Tax Credit. The deadline to become a “covered state” in 2027, the onset year, is January 1, 2027.¹⁸

14 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, “Scholarship Organizations: List of Scholarship Organizations Effective 01/01/2025 – 12/31/2025 (EITC),” accessed February 28, 2026, <https://dced.pa.gov/scholarship-organizations/>.

15 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, “Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC);” Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, “Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC).”

16 Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, “Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC).”

17 Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver, 2025 Act 47, P.L. 244 (Senate Bill 315, Omnibus Amendments), Pennsylvania General Assembly, Regular Session 2025–26, November 12, 2025, <https://www.palegis.us/statutes/unconsolidated/law-information?SessYr=2025&SessInd=0&ActNum=047>.

18 Act of July 4, 2025, Pub. L. No. 119–21, § 70411, 139 Stat. 72, 215–218.

Notably, Pennsylvania’s more than 200 scholarship organizations are **in a privileged position to qualify as FSTC scholarship granting organizations (SGOs)**. This transformative legislation, modeled after the commonwealth’s EITC and OSTC programs, starting in 2027, will permit individual donors with an IRS tax liability to donate up to \$1,700 annually via participating SGOs to fund scholarships and qualified educational expenses for K–12 students attending private schools. Moreover, FSTC can help students in public, charter/cyber charter, career technical, home schools, and microschoools with funding to cover expenses, such as school supplies, books, tutoring, computer equipment, and special education.¹⁹

FSTC donors will receive a 100 percent, dollar-for-dollar, federal tax credit. The legislation, as passed, currently prohibits corporate donations.

In December 2025, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS issued a guideline for states to, as of January 1, 2026, submit their “Advance Election to Participate” in the program.²⁰ Both agencies, in conjunction with the Congressional Rules Committee, are working to publish further guidance on the specific procedures that states and SGOs must follow to participate in the program.²¹ Final rules are expected to be made public by the fall of 2026.

To qualify as an SGO for the FSTC program, organizations must:

- Be a nonprofit entity exempt from tax, per sections 501(c)(3) and 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and “is not a private foundation.”
- Award scholarships to at least ten students and fund scholarships for more than one school.
- Conduct an annual financial and compliance audit by an independent certified public accountant.
- Prohibit the designation of donations for a particular student.
- Administrative expenses are less than 10 percent.²²

Previously, Pennsylvania law permitted scholarship organizations to use up to 20 percent of funds towards providing scholarships to EITC- and OSTC-eligible students. However, beginning with the 2024–25 school year, organizations must use 90 percent on EITC and OSTC scholarships (or 85 percent if the organization demonstrates that 90 percent goes to programmatic expenses), and may only utilize up to 10 percent for administrative fees and other program costs.²³

Data collected by the Commonwealth Foundation via RTK requests documented in this report’s first edition in 2024 revealed that prior to the law going into effect, most scholarship organizations were already allocating more than 90 percent of donations toward eligible scholarships,²⁴ indicating that Pennsylvania scholarship organizations will be able to meet or exceed the guidelines for participation in the FSTC program.

19 Commonwealth Foundation, “Federal Scholarship Tax Credit,” February 23, 2026, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/federal-scholarship-tax-credit/>.

20 Internal Revenue Service, “Treasury, IRS Allow States to Make an Advance Election to Participate in the New Federal Tax Credit for Individual Contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations under the One, Big, Beautiful Bill,” release No. IR-2025-121, December 12, 2025, <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/treasury-irs-allow-states-to-make-an-advance-election-to-participate-in-the-new-federal-tax-credit-for-individual-contributions-to-scholarship-granting-organizations-under-the-one-big-beautiful-bill>.

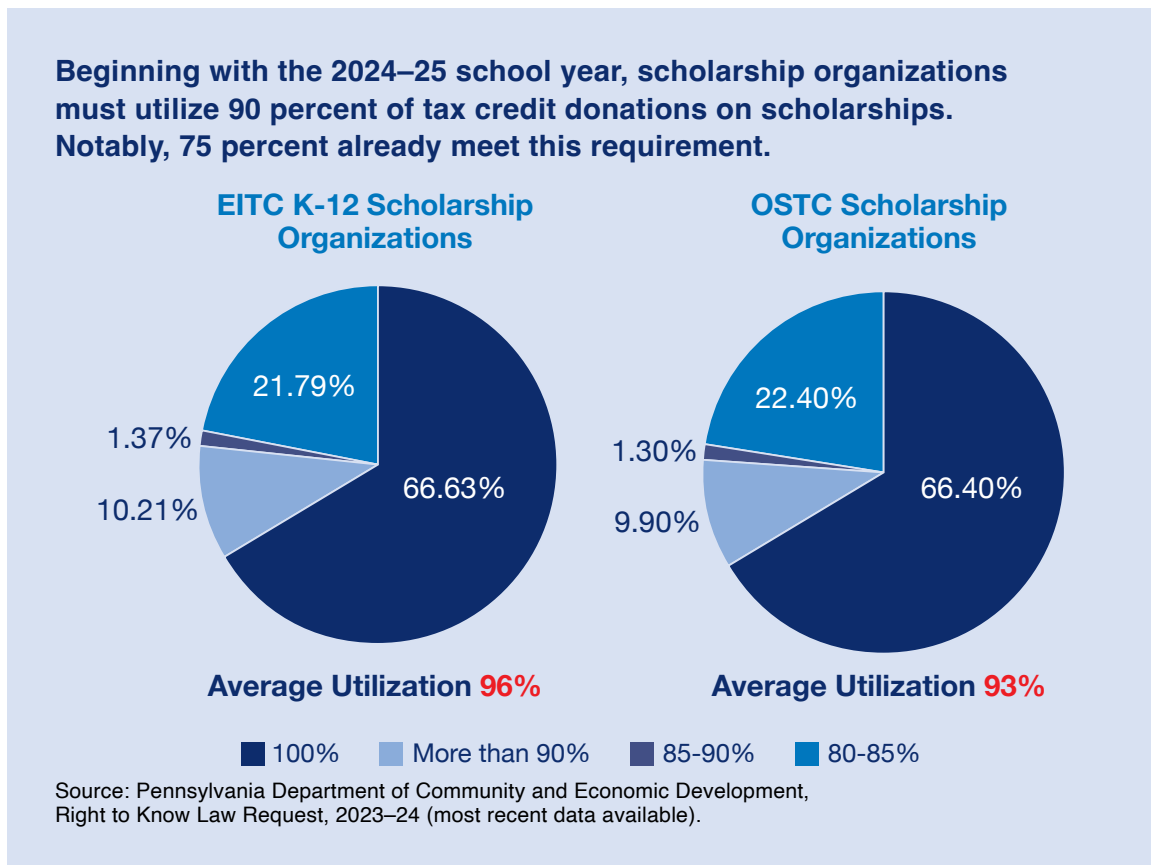
21 Tax Notes, “Guidance Issued for States Opting into Scholarship Grant Program,” December 12, 2025, <https://www.taxnotes.com/research/federal/irs-guidance/revenue-procedures/guidance-issued-states-opting-scholarship-grant-program/7tclx>.

22 Act of July 4, 2025, Pub. L. No. 119–21, § 70411, 139 Stat. 72, 216.

23 Harkins, 2023 Act 33, P.L. 187 (House Bill 301).

24 Rachel Langan, “Pennsylvania’s Education Tax Credit Scholarships: How EITC Serves Children and Families in the Commonwealth,” Commonwealth Foundation, September 2024, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Education-Tax-Credit-Scholarships-paper-Sept2024.pdf>.

FIGURE 5: SCHOLARSHIP ORGANIZATION EXPENDITURES FOR 2023–24



It is uncommon for scholarship organizations to charge an application fee for students who apply for scholarships; however, some do. Data provided by DCED via the RTK requests track total revenue from application fees (Figure 5).

- A total of 233 scholarship organizations processed tax credit scholarship applications. Of those, 140 (64 percent) did not charge or collect any application fees, with 83 scholarship organizations charging a *de minimis* (i.e., trifling amounts) fee, averaging \$0.06 per application.
- Eighteen scholarship organizations report more significant fee revenue, with an average fee of \$29.71 per application.
- Among the 154 OSTC scholarship organizations, 92 (60 percent) did not collect any application fees.
- Only 62 OSTC scholarship organizations reported any fee revenue, but again, the majority of these were insignificant.

Section 2: Tax Credit Scholarship Myths and Facts

SUMMARY

Unfortunately, conversations about tax credit scholarships are fraught with myths and misconceptions. This section addresses the most common myths with facts.

- **MYTH:** Private schools and tax credit scholarship programs lack accountability.
 - **FACTS:** Private schools are accountable to parents and stand to lose tuition dollars when parents are dissatisfied with academic outcomes.
- There is no accountability for low-achieving public schools that fail to produce academic results.
 - Public schools that repeatedly score in the bottom 15 percent on Keystone and Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams have received increased education funding from the state, yet fail to improve outcomes.
 - There are 211,000 kids across the state attending 380 low-achieving schools.²⁵ Sixty-six percent (or 250) of these schools have, for seven or more years, been among Pennsylvania’s low-achieving schools, with kids trapped in a failing school for their entire elementary, middle, or high school tenure with no hope of improvement.
 - The School District of Philadelphia, at 134, has the highest number of low-achieving schools.
 - The 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), or Nation’s Report Card, released in January 2025, shows 69 percent of Pennsylvania public school eighth graders not proficient in math, with an equal 69 percent who cannot read at grade level.
 - Notably, the latest NAEP results underline that Pennsylvania public schools have made no measurable improvement since 2003 to close achievement gaps of more than 25 points for Black and Hispanic students, economically disadvantaged students, or English language learners.²⁶
 - The NAEP, administered every two years with the 2026 results set for release in January 2027,²⁷ in 2022 revealed that Catholic school students excelled during the COVID-19 pandemic, while public school students lost ground.²⁸

25 Pennsylvania Department of Education, “Low Achieving Schools: 2025–26 List of Low Achieving Schools,” <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/schools/school-services/opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program.html>.

26 Commonwealth Foundation, “Pennsylvania Public Schools: Nation’s Report Card 2024,” February 25, 2025, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/pennsylvania-public-schools-nations-report-card-2024/>.

27 The National Center for Education Statistics notes that for the 2026 NAEP evaluations there are new frameworks for both the reading and math assessments, which “guide the development of the questions students answer” to “ensure ... questions align more closely” with student learning. See: Mathew Soldner and Lesley Muldoon, “What’s on the Horizon for the 2026 Nation’s Report Card,” National Center for Education Statistics, January 21, 2026, <https://nces.ed.gov/learn/blog/whats-horizon-2026-nations-report-card>.

28 National Catholic Education Association, “The Nation’s Report Card Shows Catholic Schools Excelling Post-Pandemic,” news release, October 2022, https://ncea.org/NCEA/NCEA/How_We_Serve/News/Press_Releases/The_Nation_s_Report_Card_Shows_Catholic_Schools_Excelling_Post-Pandemic.aspx.

- **MYTH:** Pennsylvania is a national leader in public education.
- **FACTS:** Pennsylvania’s public school students trail in educational outcomes when compared to students attending private schools.

- Pennsylvania’s private school students scored an average of 1229 out of 1600 points on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).
- For public school students who graduated in 2025, fewer than half (47 percent) took the SAT during their high school career, and the class of 2024 scored an average of 1080 out of 1600 points.²⁹

- **MYTH:** Pennsylvania’s public schools are underfunded.
- **FACTS:** Pennsylvania spends a historic \$23,061 per-student, whereas the average private school tuition in Pennsylvania is \$14,823.

- Pennsylvania ranks sixth nationally for state education spending and earned an “A” on the level of state education funding, according to the Education Law Center’s 2025 report, debunking the public school underfunding myth.

- **MYTH:** Pennsylvania voters do not want school choice.
- **FACTS:** Parent demand for tax credit scholarships far exceeds supply. Pennsylvania families want and need more options beyond the traditional public school.

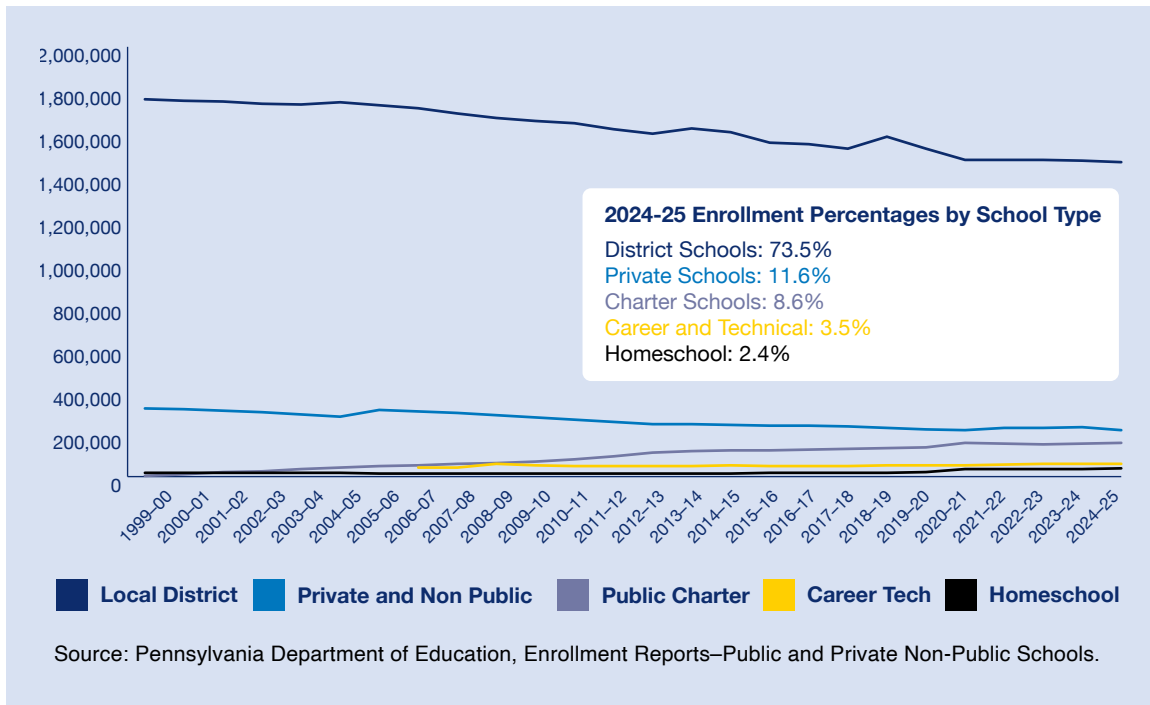
- Since inception, the EITC and OSTC tax credit scholarship programs have had more applicants than scholarships, leaving thousands of kids on a waitlist each year. In 2023–24, the program turned away 40 percent of applications.³⁰
- Polling numbers released in September 2025 show seven out of ten Pennsylvanians support school choice.³¹
- Nearly 30 percent of Pennsylvania’s K–12 students already exercise school choice, with close to 500,000 students receiving their education outside of their district-assigned schools (Figure 6):
 - There are 210,000 attending private/non-public schools.
 - The charter school student population is 169,000.
 - Nearly 68,000 attend a career/technical school.
 - And 53,000 receive homeschooling.

29 The Princeton Review, “The Average SAT Score by State: How Does Your Score Compare?” accessed March 26, 2026, <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/sat-score-by-state>.

30 Stephen Bloom, Pennsylvania House Republican Policy Committee Hearing on Educational Choice in the Commonwealth, January 23, 2026, (prepared testimony on behalf of the Commonwealth Foundation), <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/pennsylvania-students-will-thrive-with-educational-choice/>.

31 Commonwealth Foundation, “New Poll: Inflation, Economy, Taxes, and Crime Top Voter Concerns, Pennsylvanians Hold Shapiro Responsible for Budget Impasse,” September 3, 2025, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/2025/09/03/new-poll-inflation-economy-taxes-and-crime-top-voter-concerns-pennsylvanians-hold-shapiro-responsible-for-budget-impasse/>.

FIGURE 6: PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



- **MYTH:** Tax credit scholarships serve mostly white and wealthy students.
- **FACTS:** EITC scholarship recipients are racially diverse, with over one-third (42 percent) of students identifying as a person of color.

- EITC and OSTC tax credit scholarship programs serve families with incomes between \$56,249 and \$78,081 per year, well below the U.S. Census Bureau’s median income level of \$100,557 for Pennsylvania residents.

- **MYTH:** Private and religious schools are allowed to discriminate against and refuse to enroll students for any reason, including disability, race, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation.
- **FACTS:** Tax credit scholarships provide students the opportunity to find a school that meets their needs, regardless of ability, race, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation.

- There are thousands of private schools in Pennsylvania, educating hundreds of thousands of children. Parents choosing a school that aligns with their family’s values is not discrimination; it’s a decision that parents get to make about what is best for their kids.
- Pennsylvania offers a diverse array of over 2,000 private schools that align with the values of Pennsylvania families, including schools for the Amish, Catholic, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Quaker faiths, to LGBTQ+ friendly, secular, and schools serving special education students, Pennsylvania private schools offer something for everyone.³²

32 Commonwealth Foundation, “Educational Choice Myth and Facts 2025,” May 21, 2025, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/educational-choice-myth-and-facts-2025/>.

Section 3: Policy Solutions for Improving Student Access to Tax Credit Scholarships

SUMMARY

Pennsylvania families want and need additional educational funding sources beyond traditional tax credit scholarship programs. The overwhelming demand for tax credit scholarships demonstrates that annual increases are not enough to meet the needs of K–12 students and their families. Opting in to the FSTC will provide millions, and eventually billions, in tax credit scholarships for Pennsylvania’s K–12 students.

EITC and OSTC donation caps, set annually by lawmakers, limit the programs’ growth and impact.

In 2023–24, Pennsylvania scholarship organizations turned away 40 percent, or 68,817 K–12 student scholarship applications, because of tax credit caps, indicating that annual increases to the EITC and OSTC programs are not sufficient to meet the growing demand.

INCREASE THE DONATION THRESHOLD FOR TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

A higher donation threshold for businesses and individuals would allow more low- and middle-income students to receive scholarships, and/or would provide larger scholarship awards, which would ease financial burdens for low-income families who struggle to afford private education.

IMPLEMENT AN AUTOMATIC INDEX FOR EITC

Legislators can improve access to tax credit scholarships by implementing an “automatic index,” which allows the tax credit scholarship programs to grow with student demand. Proposals, such as SB 527 introduced in 2022,³³ would increase EITC and OSTC by 25 percent annually when 90 percent of available tax credits were allocated in the previous year. Florida has a similar index for its tax credit scholarship program and, as a result, can meet student demand rather than denying scholarship applications.

FUND A NEW TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN PENNSYLVANIA

In June 2025, new legislation, HB 1662, the Learning Investment Tax Credit (LITC), was introduced in Pennsylvania.³⁴ The LITC would provide a refundable tax credit or tax refund of up to \$8,000 per child—depending on family income—to be used for qualified education expenses for children attending non-public schools. Low-income families could receive the tax refund in advance, allowing them to pay school tuition at the start of the school year. LITC could be used in partnership with existing scholarship programs, including EITC, OSTC, EDS, and private scholarship awards.³⁵

33 Sen. Mike Regan, Senate Bill 527, Pennsylvania General Assembly, Regular Session 2021–22, <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2021&sind=0&body=S&type=B&bn=527>.

34 Rep. Martina White, House Bill 1662, Pennsylvania General Assembly, Regular Session 2025–26, <https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/2025/hb1662>.

35 Commonwealth Foundation, “Learning Investment Tax Credit,” June 25, 2025, <https://commonwealthfoundation.org/research/learning-investment-tax-credit/>.

OPT IN TO THE NEW FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

More than half of U.S. states have taken advantage of the “Advance Election to Participate” in the FSTC program. The IRS reports 27 state governors choosing to opt in. In addition, the Kentucky and Kansas legislatures have passed legislation to override their respective governors’ vetoes, for a total, so far, of 29. North Carolina has pending opt-in legislation, and another three state governors who previously opted out have stated they will reconsider whether to “voluntarily elect to participate” and become an FSTC “covered state” in 2027 (Figure 7).³⁶ Meanwhile, Pennsylvania has not yet opted in.

New polling shows that **seven out of 10 parents support the federal scholarship tax credit program**, and over one-third of parents indicated that they will financially support the program.

The Keystone State needs a “yes” from Shapiro before the FSTC onset year deadline of January 1, 2027. A November 2025 poll shows 78 percent of Pennsylvanians spanning the political spectrum support this transformative program to improve access to educational opportunity for the nearly two million K–12 students across all zip codes in Pennsylvania.³⁷

Students receiving EITC/OSTC/EDS are also eligible for the FSTC. Because Pennsylvania’s tax credit scholarship ecosystem is robust, the more than 200 existing scholarship organizations are in a strong position to readily adapt to accepting donations for the federal program beginning in 2027 and subsequently distribute scholarships to students for the 2027–28 school year.

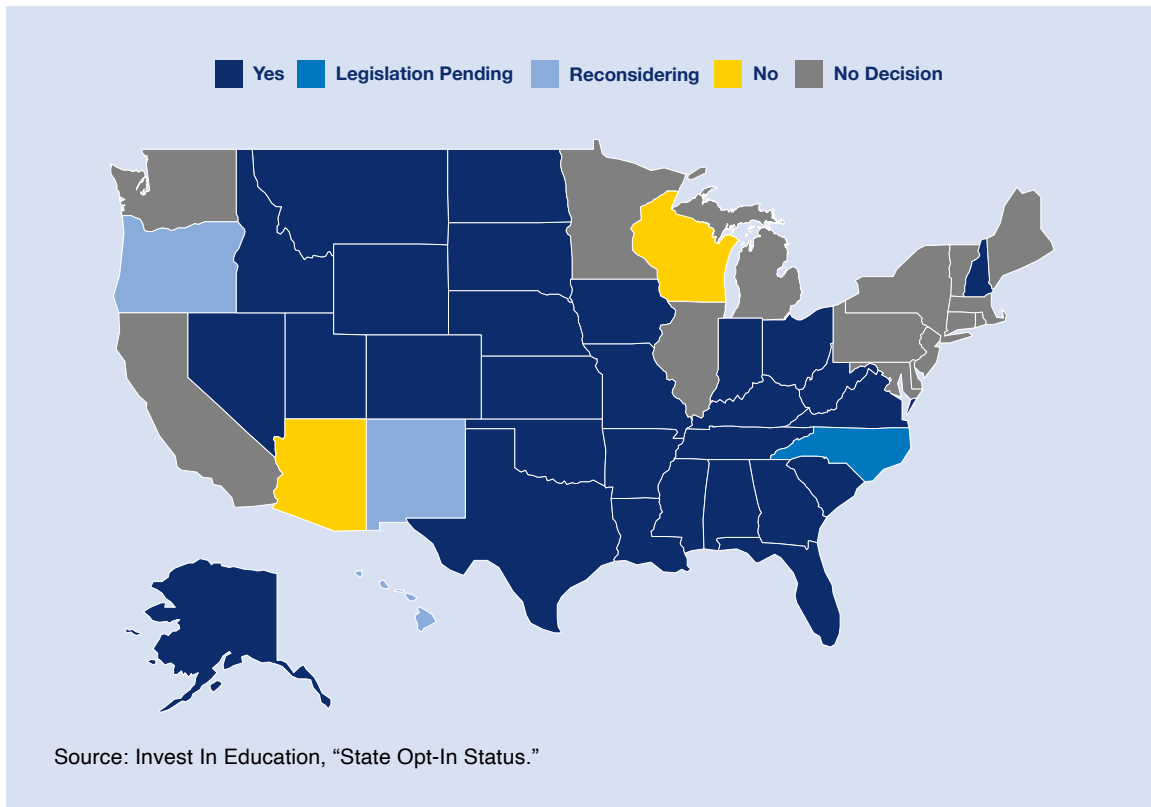
By not opting in, Shapiro risks losing millions in education tax credit benefits for Pennsylvania families to other states. An analysis from Education Reform Now suggests that if even 15 percent of Pennsylvania taxpayers with a federal tax liability of greater than \$1,700 participate, that would yield \$484 million in donations.³⁸

36 Internal Revenue Service, “Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC): Advance Elections to Participate under Section 25F for 2027, Participating States for 2027 (as of April 15, 2026),” accessed April 23, 2026, <https://www.irs.gov/government-entities/federal-state-local-governments/federal-scholarship-tax-credit-fstc>; Invest in Education Foundation, “State Opt-In Status,” accessed May 5, 2026, <https://scholarshiptaxcredit.org/>; Annelise Reinwald, “Kentucky Legislature Overrides Veto of Bill Opting into Federal School Choice Tax Credit Scholarship Program,” March 25, 2026, Ballotpedia News, <https://news.ballotpedia.org/2026/03/25/kentucky-legislature-overrides-veto-of-bill-opting-into-federal-school-choice-tax-credit-scholarship-program/>; Patrick Richardson, “Legislature Overrides Veto of Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Program, The Sentinel, April 10, 2026, <https://sentinelksmo.org/federal-tax-credit-scholarship/>.

37 Democrats for Education Reform, “New PA Poll: 78% of Keystone State Voters Support Opting into the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit (FSTC),” November 25, 2025, <https://dfer.org/2025/11/25/new-pa-poll-78-of-keystone-state-voters-support-opting-into-the-federal-scholarship-tax-credit-fstc/>.

38 Education Reform Now, “New Data Projects Potential \$24 Billion Boost for Students Through Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Program (formerly ECCA),” December 22, 2025, <https://edreformnow.org/2025/12/22/new-data-projects-potential-24-billion-boost-for-students-through-federal-tax-credit-scholarship-program-formerly-ecca/>.

FIGURE 7: TWENTY-NINE STATES OPT IN TO THE FSTC AS OF MAY 5, 2026



FUND STUDENTS DIRECTLY

Pennsylvania tax dollars should follow all students to the school of their choice, whether to public, private, charter, career and technical, or home education programs.

Funding students directly would be a vital step toward fulfilling the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court 2023 ruling, which states that lawmakers should work to ensure “every student receives a meaningful opportunity to succeed,”³⁹ would ease financial burdens placed on Pennsylvania families who choose private school education for their children, and would provide a funding mechanism for kids who want to exit the public school system but cannot afford to do so.

³⁹ William Penn School District et al. v. Pa. Department of Education et al., No. 587 M.D. 2014, (Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, Feb. 7, 2023), 773–78, [https://www.pacourts.us/Storage/media/pdfs/20230207/214401-587md2014--memorandumopinionfiled\(feb.7\)reduced.pdf](https://www.pacourts.us/Storage/media/pdfs/20230207/214401-587md2014--memorandumopinionfiled(feb.7)reduced.pdf).

Section 4: EITC and Economically Disadvantaged Schools

SUMMARY

The EDS component of the EITC scholarship program provides supplementary scholarships for Pennsylvania students who are economically disadvantaged and attend private schools on an EITC scholarship. The current per-student caps on the EDS supplementary scholarships are \$2,000 for grades K–8 and \$4,000 for grades 9–12.⁴⁰

REASON FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- A student’s access to a high-quality, high-performing school should not rely on a zip code. Low-income students and parents deserve the same flexibility that wealthier families enjoy in finding the education that works best for them. Low-income and minority students in Pennsylvania experience widening achievement gaps, and pandemic-related closures only exacerbated the disparity.
- The most recent data available from the 2024 NAEP, or Nations Report Card, show that Pennsylvania public schools have made no measurable improvement since 2003 to close achievement gaps of more than 25 points for Black and Hispanic students, Economically Disadvantaged students, or English Language Learners.⁴¹
- Increasing tax credit scholarships for Economically Disadvantaged Schools would provide direct relief to underserved and under-resourced children.

WHAT ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS?

- The DCED oversees EDS funding, but the Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) administers and distributes all EDS funds to qualifying schools.⁴² Neither schools nor students need to be Catholic to participate in the EDS program.
- Economically Disadvantaged Schools are schools where 51 percent or more of the students received an EITC scholarship of at least \$500 in the preceding school year.⁴³ However, data gathered by BLOCS shows that the average EDS enrolls 69 percent of students receiving tax credit scholarships.
- Economically Disadvantaged Schools predominantly serve low-income families unable to pay full tuition. Directing supplemental tax credit scholarships to students in these schools provides increased education funding to the kids and schools that need it most.

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS IN PENNSYLVANIA

- There are 222 designated Economically Disadvantaged Schools in 42 counties across Pennsylvania for the 2025–26 school year, compared to 131 schools in 29 counties the previous year.

40 Schlegel Culver, 2025 Act 47, P.L. 244 (Senate Bill 315).

41 Commonwealth Foundation, “Pennsylvania Public Schools: Nation’s Report Card 2024”; National Center for Education Statistics, “Nation’s Report Card: 2024 Mathematics State Snapshot Report, Pennsylvania, Grade 4, Public Schools,” U.S. Department of Education: Institute of Education Sciences, January 29, 2025, <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/stt2024/pdf/2024219PA4.pdf>.

42 Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools, “Economically Disadvantaged Schools: Maximize Your Impact with a 99% Tax Credit,” accessed March 31, 2025, <https://www.blocs.org/eds>.

43 Act 55 of 2022 pushed the Economically Disadvantaged School threshold from 75 percent to 51 percent of students receiving EITC or OSTC scholarships in the preceding school year. The drop has allowed more schools that serve low-income and impoverished families to participate in the scholarship program. See: 2022 Act 55, P.L. 620 (House Bill 1642, Omnibus Amendments), Pennsylvania General Assembly, Regular Session 2021–22, July 8, 2022, <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2022&sessInd=0&act=55>.

- Special education students with EDS scholarships receive services under Act 89 provisions to private school students, administered through the local school district and/or intermediate unit.⁴⁴
- The number of Economically Disadvantaged Schools providing dedicated special education services increased by 50 percent between the 2023–24 and 2024–25 school years. With 54 EDS providing dedicated special education programming to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities, compared to 27 the previous year.

HOW MUCH IS A SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP?

- Any student attending an Economically Disadvantaged School with an EITC scholarship of at least \$500 also receives the supplemental scholarship. The total scholarship amount awarded to a student cannot exceed the costs of tuition and school-related fees.
- EDS scholarships are donation-financed, with BLOCS fundraising tax credits for EDS scholarships across Pennsylvania. Donors to the EDS program receive a 99 percent tax credit against their Pennsylvania tax liability.⁴⁵
- Currently, eligible elementary and middle school students can receive a supplemental scholarship of up to \$2,000. The EDS scholarship cap increases to \$4,000 for high school students.
- Thanks to increased funding, EDS scholarships increased by 421 percent, from \$288 for K–8 students and \$576 for students in grades 9–12 in 2023–24, to \$1,500 for K–8 and \$3,000 for grades 9–12 in 2025–26.
- In the 2025–26 school year, 20,912 students received supplemental scholarships amounting to \$1,500 per K–8 student and \$3,000 for students in grades 9–12, which is still below the legal threshold of \$2,000/\$4,000 per student.
- The 2025–26 cap for EDS is \$110 million, nearly double the previous year’s allocation, which is expected to provide scholarships for 42,000 students across 54 counties in 2026–27 for Pennsylvania’s most economically vulnerable students.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVED ACCESS TO EDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Improve scholarship reliability for Pennsylvania’s most vulnerable students.

- A delay in passing the Pennsylvania budget in 2023 led to lower-than-expected EDS scholarship disbursements for the 2024–25 school year, when K–8 students received just \$288 (instead of the expected \$2,000) and high school students received \$576 (instead of the expected \$4,000).
- The shortfalls negatively impacted students, schools, and families who rely on the EDS scholarships to cover thousands of dollars in unfunded tuition costs.
- Lawmakers must work diligently to pass the state budget by June 30th of each year, in accordance with state law, to provide families with reliable scholarship funds by the start of each new school year.

44 Pennsylvania Department of Education, Basic Education Circulars: “Special Education Services to Nonpublic School Students,” accessed August 28, 2025, <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/resources/policies-acts-and-laws/basic-education-circulars-becs/federal-code/special-education-services-to-nonpublic-school-students>.

45 Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools, “Economically Disadvantaged Schools.”

Section 5: Student Economic Data

SUMMARY

While no state agency collects comprehensive information regarding scholarship students' family income or demographics, this report compiles data from scholarship providers and financial services providers to examine details about EITC and OSTC scholarship recipients.

The data collected from Simple Tuition Solutions (STS) and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP) for the 2024–25 school year represent approximately 15 percent of EITC and OSTC scholarship recipients across the state, a sample size generally regarded as acceptable.

AOP serves the most populous five-county area in Pennsylvania, and its data demonstrates that most families receiving tax credit scholarships earn below the median income level for their respective counties.

5.1 Simple Tuition Solutions

STS supplied this research with its aggregate data on EITC and OSTC scholarships processed for schools and scholarship organizations across Pennsylvania.

STS provides tuition management and financial aid assessment software for private K–12 schools and scholarship organizations in Pennsylvania. STS effectively and accurately assesses the financial need of families seeking tuition assistance.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME, TUITION, AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The financial data from STS demonstrates that **private schools educate students from low-income families at a fraction of the \$23,061 per pupil spent on public school students.**

STS's data (Figure 8) represents 6,483 Pennsylvania private school students attending 125 schools across 56 counties.

- Average household income is \$78,081 for EITC scholarship recipients and \$56,249 for OSTC scholarship recipients across the state.
- The average household size for an EITC scholarship recipient is 4.4 people and 4.0 for OSTC recipients.
- The median tuition rate provided by STS is \$5,448 annually.
- The average scholarship award was \$2,625.
- The annual median family tuition contribution is \$3,874.
- In comparison, public schools in Pennsylvania spent an average of \$23,061 per student in the 2023–24 school year.

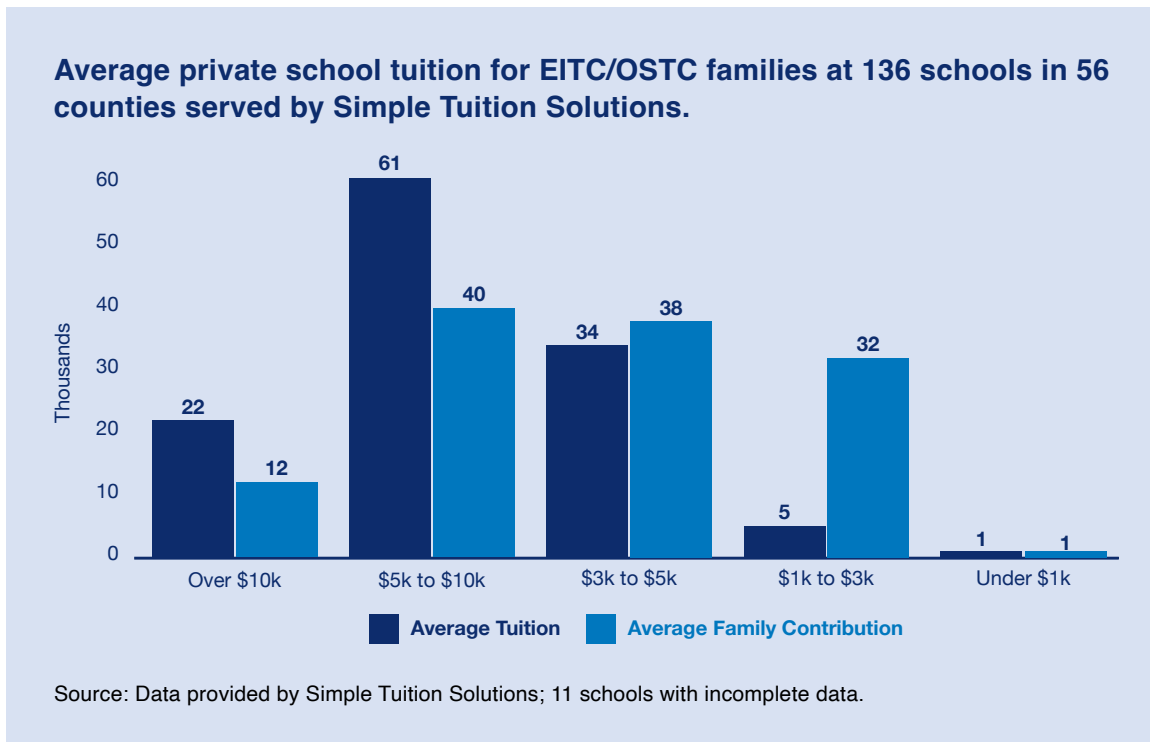
Eighty-three percent of the schools charge tuition less than \$10,000.

- Of the remaining 23 schools with tuition over \$10,000, seven schools serve special education students and/or provide residential treatment, which translates to a higher cost to educate.
- Sixty-one percent of families contribute less than \$5,000 in tuition, with tax credit scholarships and private donations bridging the gap between tuition and the cost to educate.

STS reports EITC scholarship recipients as racially diverse, with over one-third (42 percent) of students identifying as a person of color.

- White: 57 percent.
- Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish: 19 percent.
- Unknown / Did not answer: 10 percent.
- Black or African American: 7 percent.
- Other 4 percent.
- Asian: 2 percent.

FIGURE 8: 2024-25 PRIVATE SCHOOL TUITION



SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In the 2024–25 school year, STS processed scholarships for students from 257 school districts (out of 500 in the state) and within the catchment area of 924 individual public schools.

The five school districts with the most tax credit scholarship students residing within the boundary of a public school (served by STS) are:

- Reading School District (Berks County) with 432 EITC students. All 19 schools (100 percent) in the district are low-achieving.
- Allentown City School District (Lehigh County) with 326 EITC students. Sixteen out of the district’s 24 schools (66 percent) are low-achieving.
- Bethlehem Area School District (Lehigh County) with 261 EITC students. Eight out of the district’s 22 schools (36 percent) are low-achieving, compared to just five schools in 2023–24.

- Shamokin Area School District (Northumberland County) with 149 EITC students. Twenty-five percent (one out of four) of the schools in the district are low-achieving.
- Lancaster School District (Lancaster County) with 145 EITC students. Eleven out of the district’s 20 schools (55 percent) are low-achieving.

5.2 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

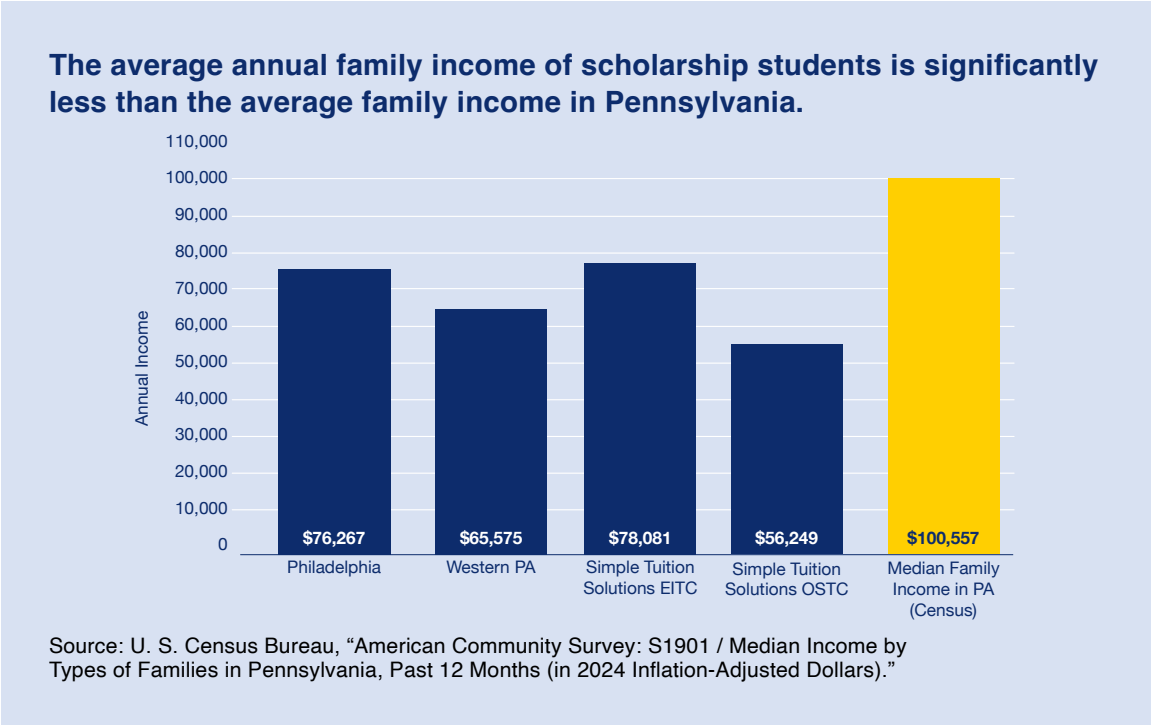
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The AOP serves the five-county Philadelphia region—Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties, representing the largest statewide share of EITC scholarships.

- There are 102 K–8 schools, 15 schools for grades 9–12, with three additional schools serving special needs students ages five to 21.
- Eighty-three percent of K–8 applicants qualified for EITC and received an average scholarship of \$2,110.
- Eighty-two percent of applicants in grades 9–12 qualified for EITC and received an average scholarship of \$4,418.

The median annual family income of scholarship recipients is \$76,267, which is slightly lower than the median family income in Pennsylvania of \$100,557 (Figure 9).⁴⁶

FIGURE 9: 2024-25 AVERAGE ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME OF TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



46 U. S. Census Bureau, “American Community Survey: S1901 / Median Income by Types of Families in Pennsylvania, the Past 12 Months (in 2024 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars): Pennsylvania,” September 2025, <https://data.census.gov/vizwidget?g=040XX00US42&infoSection=Income+and+Earnings>; U. S. Census Bureau, “American Community Survey: S1901 / Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2024 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars),” September 2025, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2024.S1901?g=040XX00US42>.

The median income for families in the Philadelphia area varies greatly, with the city of Philadelphia experiencing a lower median income than the state average, and a full 50 percent less than that of neighboring Chester County.

Families of the AOP scholarship students in Philadelphia have median incomes on par with Philadelphia County and far below the median for the surrounding counties. As Figure 10 illustrates, **Archdiocesan data shows that the counties with the most low-achieving public schools have the highest number of scholarship recipients, indicating that tax credit scholarships empower families in low-achieving schools with an alternative education for their children.**

FIGURE 10: ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS (K–8)

County	Avg Family Income of Scholarship Recipient	Median Household Income by County	Number of Scholarships	Number of Low-Achieving Public K-8 Schools by County
Philadelphia	\$62,987	\$60,302	2,712	104
Delaware	\$74,804	\$84,085	1,288	18
Montgomery	\$84,357	\$106,748	1,033	3
Bucks	\$87,411	\$107,221	884	3
Chester	\$88,358	\$120,903	318	4

Sources: EITC and OSTC Scholarship Data provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia: average income, number of students attending on EITC/OSTC Scholarships; Pennsylvania Department of Education, Low-Achieving Public Schools; and U.S. Census Bureau, “American Community Survey: S1901 / Income in the Past 12 Months (in 2023 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars).

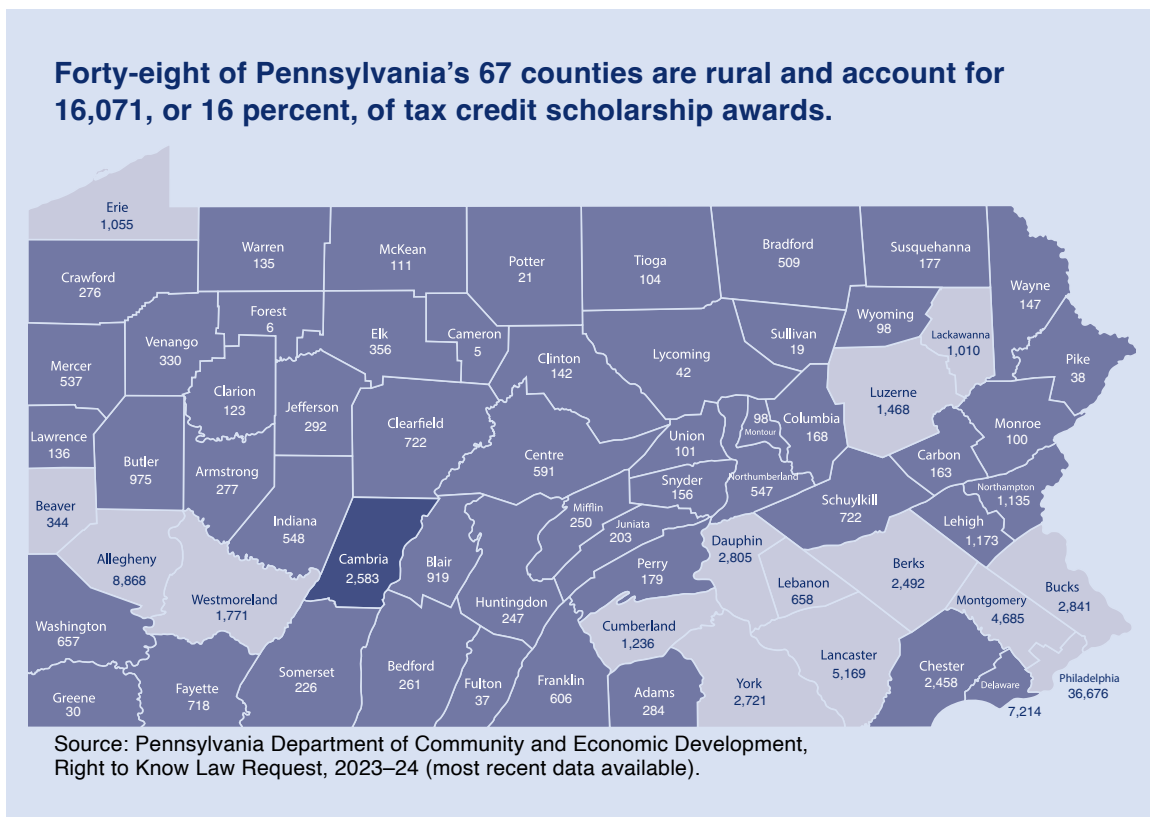
Section 6: Case Studies, Rural Schools

SUMMARY

In the Commonwealth Foundation’s first edition of this report in 2024, the case studies centered on urban schools; to demonstrate the diversity within the EITC program, this year’s report focuses on rural schools. Schools selected for case studies represent multiple geographic locations across rural Pennsylvania, including parochial schools, an independent Christian school, and a Mennonite school, each serving a variety of grade levels, unique student bodies, and utilizing varied approaches to student success.

Typically, the cost to educate private school students is significantly higher than the tuition revenue collected by schools. Thus, schools must fundraise diligently in addition to EITC to keep tuition affordable for families. Private scholarships and EITC tax credit scholarships help to bridge the financial gap between the cost to educate and what families pay in tuition, which enables tens of thousands of students to attend a private school that they would otherwise be unable to afford.

FIGURE 11: EITC AND OSTC IN RURAL PENNSYLVANIA



According to the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, 48 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties identify as rural, based on a population density of fewer than 291 people per square mile.⁴⁷ Students living in rural Pennsylvania in the 2023–24 school year received 16,071, or 16 percent of all scholarship awards (Figure 11).

⁴⁷ Center for Rural Pennsylvania, “Rural Urban Definitions: Rural – Urban Maps,” accessed August 28, 2025, <https://www.rural.pa.gov/data/rural-urban-definitions>.

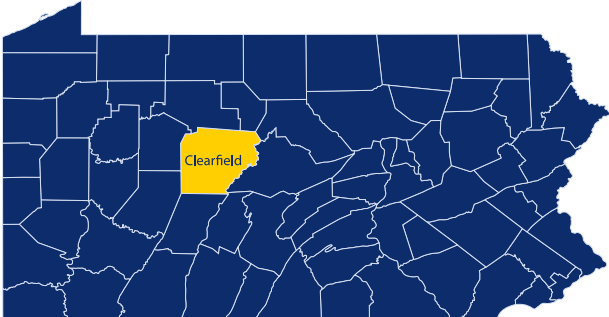
Pennsylvania has the seventh-highest population of rural students in the United States. Rural school communities face different struggles than their urban and suburban counterparts, such as transportation challenges due to long distances between home and school, the lack of high-speed internet, population decline, and underemployment or unemployment from limited industry and job opportunities. However, rural Pennsylvanians enjoy a slower-paced, less-stressful lifestyle and a lower cost of living than their urban and suburban neighbors.

The advantages of rural communities are apparent amongst the schools highlighted in the case studies. The respective school communities and wider communities at large view each school as a time-honored tradition. From their strong family values to educating multiple generations within families and their commitment to public service, the tight-woven communities they serve highly respect and value each one of them.

6.1 DuBois Central Catholic School, DuBois PA

FAST FACTS: CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Number of EITC Scholarships Awarded in the County: 722
Number of Households: 32,089
Population Loss Since 2020: 6 Percent
Median Income: \$60,181
Poverty Percentage: 15.4
Percentage of Families without Internet: 18.5
School Tuition: \$4,118



DuBois Central Catholic is the only school in the tri-county area that provides a private, Catholic-based education from pre-K through the 12th grade at one location. The school serves 385 students, with 35 percent of students identifying as non-Catholic. Located within the largest geographic diocese in Pennsylvania, the Diocese of Erie covers over 10,000 miles and 13 counties.

DuBois Central Catholic has broad appeal across Clearfield County, as evidenced by its student population, which represents six local school districts, four of which offer busing. DuBois Central Catholic provides busing for the remaining two districts, and several families living outside of the bus zone travel up to 45 minutes each way to bring their children to school.

To foster a sense of community and strong teacher/student relationships, the school caps grade size at 60 students. The teacher-to-student ratio is 1:15, allowing for individualized attention and exceptional academic focus. Starting with the 2024–25 school year, DuBois Central Catholic began offering a unique homeschool dual enrollment program to the rural residents of Clearfield County.

DuBois Central Catholic student performance on standardized achievement tests is above the national average, with 90 percent of graduates pursuing degrees post-graduation. Eighty-four percent of graduates matriculate to college thanks to Advanced Placement (AP) classes and free AP testing. Dual enrollment in college courses is available, and in 2025, 65 students graduated with a total of 184 dual enrollment college credits.

DuBois Central Catholic receives EDS funding, and 76 percent of students receive financial aid. Currently, EITC donations total \$1 million annually, with forty families joining the program as donors last year. DuBois Central Catholic is proud to offer students an average EITC scholarship of \$1,850 per student.⁴⁸

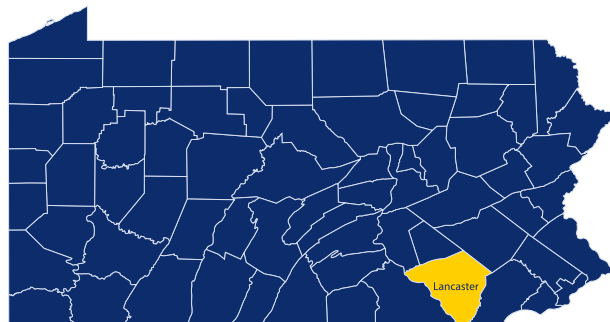
“DuBois Central Catholic gave me more than just an education. It gave me the foundation to flourish. When I reflect on my journey from high school to college, I can see just how well DuBois Central Catholic prepared me for the next chapter of my life. The transition to PennWest Clarion felt natural because I arrived on campus not only with academic knowledge—but with confidence, strong values, and a clear sense of who I am.

~ Sophie Alexis Mangiantini, Class of 2023

6.2 Hinkletown Mennonite School, Ephrata, PA

FAST FACTS: LANCASTER COUNTY

Number of EITC Scholarships Awarded in the County: 5,169
Number of Households: 210,536
Population Loss Since 2020: 0.83 Percent
Median Income: \$83,703
Poverty Percentage: 8.6
Percentage of Families without Internet: 13.1
School Tuition: \$8,158
Average Family Contribution for EITC Students: \$4,708
Qualifies as an Economically Disadvantaged School



48 Dubois Central Catholic School, “Our School,” accessed August 28, 2025, https://www.duboiscatholic.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=3845952&type=d&pREC_ID=2475213.

Lancaster County does not fit the definition of a rural county due to the number of households and population density. Yet, this report includes Hinkletown Mennonite School because of its close ties with the greater Mennonite community in Lancaster, rooted in an ongoing commitment to maintaining their religious, scholarly, agrarian, and cultural practices; thus, the Hinkletown Mennonite School closely resembles other rural schools across the state.

Hinkletown Mennonite educates 283 pre-K–12th-grade students from 64 local churches. The school prides itself on being a family and community-focused, inviting families to connect and participate in their children’s education. Moreover, Hinkletown Mennonite strives to provide an individualized education for each student according to their ability and interest. The school offers hands-on learning experiences and age-appropriate connections with members of the local community who can share their vocational callings or professional expertise. Students participate in both community-oriented service and learn traditional Mennonite practices of growing and canning vegetables, preserving fruit, and caring for the school’s garden and resident chicken.

Hinkletown Mennonite provides bus transportation to students at an annual cost of \$1,600 per student for families living within an eight-mile radius of the school. The school serves several Amish families, and approximately 40 percent of students identify as Mennonite. The remaining students are from a variety of Christian denominational backgrounds.

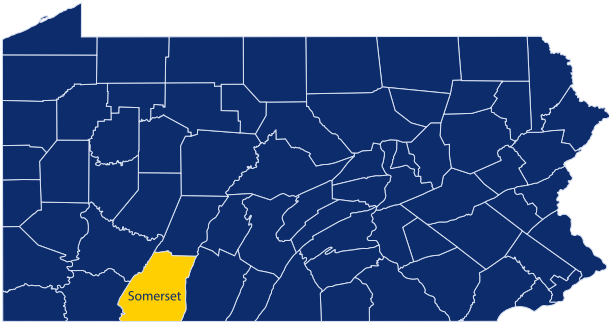
Mennonites tend to abstain from government-run programs like EITC. Yet, when asked why Hinkletown Mennonite participates in EITC, the principal responded, “Because it’s great for kids!” Great for kids indeed—60 percent of Hinkletown Mennonite students qualify for and receive EITC scholarships, and the school is proud to have raised approximately \$650,000 in tax credit scholarships during the 2024–25 school year. Hinkletown Mennonite has been growing steadily since 2017, with 12 to 15 new kids each year joining the student body. The start of the 2025–26 school year has signaled a period of growth and change for the school. For the first time, since the school opened its doors in 1981, high school students meet off campus (one mile away) because they have outgrown their current building.⁴⁹

49 Hinkletown Mennonite School, “Welcome to Hinkletown Mennonite School,” accessed August 28, 2025, <https://www.hinkletownschool.org/>.

6.3 Johnstown Christian School, Hollsopple, PA

FAST FACTS: SOMERSET COUNTY

Number of EITC Scholarships Awarded in the County: 226
Number of Households: 29,071
Population Loss Since 2020: 3.6 Percent
Median Income: \$59,378
Poverty Percentage: 12
Percentage of Families without Internet: 19.8
School Tuition: \$7,120
Qualifies as an Economically Disadvantaged School



Johnstown Christian School started in 1940 as a Mennonite school, but today it no longer affiliates itself with any specific church or denomination. The school serves 270 students from pre-K to the 12th grade, with dozens more waitlisted. Johnstown Christian has experienced explosive growth since the pandemic, with a surge in enrollment of 59 percent (100 students) in the primary grade levels.

Johnstown Christian School fundraised \$207,000 in EITC during the 2023–24 school year. In addition, the school receives EDS funding, and the total EITC scholarship (including EDS) for the 2024–25 school year was \$2,200 per student. One hundred percent of students qualify for free/reduced lunch, with most families earning \$24,000 per year or less. Fifteen school districts feed into the school, with the largest feeder district being the Greater Johnstown School District in neighboring Cambria County. PDE identifies all the schools in the Greater Johnstown School District as low-achieving, which explains why 87 (32 percent) of its students left district public schools in favor of attending Johnstown Christian School. Eleven neighboring school districts provide busing, but in areas without available busing, some families must travel up to 45 minutes each way to get their children to school.

Dual enrollment college courses are available on campus, taught by professors from two colleges. This enables Johnstown Christian School graduates to begin college with over 40 dual enrollment credits on their transcripts. The average SAT score for students at Johnstown Christian is 1175, which is higher than the national average of 1029 and the state average of 1080.

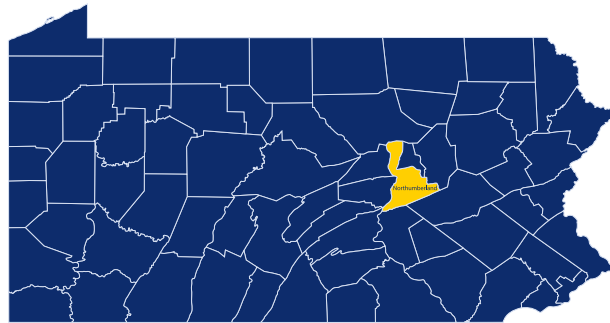
The school’s Discovery Center helps students overcome academic difficulties due to learning differences through several targeted programs. The Center offers individualized educational therapy through the National Institute of Learning Development Educational Therapy to make a college preparatory education possible for students with diagnosed learning disabilities. Additionally, the resource room provides two levels of support to students in grades two through nine, and it is available to students identified with learning needs through teacher

referral and educational testing. Johnstown Christian School also offers an early intervention program designed to identify children in kindergarten through first grade who may benefit from an individualized program to acquire the basic skills necessary for reading.⁵⁰

6.4 Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School, Coal Township, PA

FAST FACTS: NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Number of EITC Scholarships Awarded in the County: 547
Number of Households: 37,581
Population Loss Since 2020: 1.6 Percent
Median Income: \$51,010
Poverty Percentage: 12.3
Percentage of Families without Internet: 17.3
School Tuition: \$3,200 K–8, \$4,750 9-12th
Average Family Contribution for EITC Students: \$1,894
Qualifies as an Economically Disadvantaged School



Our Lady of Lourdes serves 400 kids in pre-K through the 12th grade. Thanks to the unique geography of Northumberland County, the school educates students from seven neighboring counties.

Our Lady of Lourdes is within a mile of the Shamokin Area School District’s elementary and middle/high schools, all of which are or have been on PDE’s list of low-achieving schools in recent years. According to STS Financial Data, the Shamokin Area School District accounts for the fourth-highest population of EITC students in the state, with 149 students attending a private school on an EITC scholarship.

Over the years, 12 or so Catholic schools have closed and/or consolidated under the roof of Our Lady of Lourdes. The sense of community is palpable; many of the students, teachers, and administrators have family members who have attended Our Lady of Lourdes and/or a consolidated sister school for several generations. Commitment to the school and to a Catholic education is strong in Coal Township.

The average income for Coal Township residents is \$36,000, but the average income for families whose children attend the school is significantly lower, at \$24,000 annually, and most families rely on employment at Walmart, the state prison, or the local hospital. Seventy percent of students qualify for tuition assistance.

⁵⁰ Johnstown Christian School, “This Is the Story of Us,” accessed February 26, 2026, <https://www.johnstownchristianschool.org/>.

Our Lady of Lourdes struggles to close the gap between tuition and the costs to educate—a gap which the reduced EDS funding for the 2024–25 school year has exacerbated. However, school leaders have been working hard at increasing EITC donations and brought in \$401,680 in EITC for the 2024–25 school year, up from \$123,630 the previous year. Donations for the 2025–26 school year are expected to exceed \$700,000.

Our Lady of Lourdes is a shining example of community generosity. In addition to EITC, the community funds over 60 private scholarships, teachers volunteer their services as an act of faith, and local contractors volunteer their time to fix the aging building, pro bono. Our Lady of Lourdes exemplifies the words of Jesus in Luke 16:10a, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”⁵¹

6.5 St. Agnes Elementary School, Towanda, PA

FAST FACTS: BRADFORD COUNTY

Number of EITC Scholarships Awarded in the County: 509

Number of Households: 24,487

Population Loss Since 2020: 1 Percent

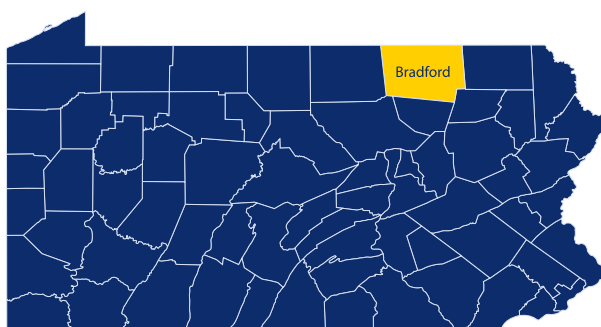
Median Income: \$62,482

Total Employers: 1,334

Poverty Percentage: 13.9

Percentage of Families without Internet: 15.9

Qualifies as an Economically Disadvantaged School



St. Agnes is a rural school in northern Pennsylvania about 20 miles south of the New York border. The school serves 108 pre-K through 6th-grade students within the Scranton Diocese and has been providing a Catholic education in Bradford County for 140 years. Students from seven local school districts attend St. Agnes, and enrollment at the school remains steady, despite declining enrollment of five percent over the last ten years at the Towanda Area School District, located several blocks away. The principal at St. Agnes reports that she has a great relationship with the school district and does not view the school district as competition since all students (except for three in the last five years) matriculate to public schools at the end of sixth grade.

The average family income for St. Agnes families is \$55,000, which is below the median income for the county. Most families are blue-collar workers employed at one of five local factories.

⁵¹ Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School, “Be a Part of the Lourdes Family,” accessed August 28, 2025, <https://www.lourdesregional.com/>.

What sets St. Agnes apart from other schools is their community connection. The school is very involved locally, with students, teachers, and parents working together to volunteer, partner, sponsor, participate, attend, and host community events.

Many of the students, teachers, and administrators have a family connection to St. Agnes, including the principal, who has worked as a teacher at the school for 35 years and has served as the principal for the last five years.

The Scranton Diocese includes 19 schools (four high schools and 15 elementary schools) and reports a growing enrollment of 4,500 students. The diocese performs an assessment each year to determine how much money each parish must contribute to Catholic education, and some parishes contribute up to 14 percent, which is a financial stressor for many. To help alleviate the financial burden on parishes, the diocese is working to engage parishioners in becoming EITC donors to help close the gap between the cost of tuition and the cost to educate students.⁵²

“Our family was ‘sold’ on a Catholic education from the moment our daughter set foot into the St. Agnes family. It was comforting to know that the level of caring necessary to reach the intellect of a child and have an impact on the rest of her life was alive and well at St. Agnes.”

~ Laura Morelli, Parent

⁵² St. Agnes School, “148 Years of Education,” accessed August 28, 2025, <https://www.stagneselem.com/>.

Conclusion

In 2001, Pennsylvania was among the first states in the nation to implement tax credit scholarships at \$20 million annually. Since that time, the pre-K–12 program has grown to \$630 million annually, helping hundreds of thousands of low- to middle-income students access high-quality schools of their choice, yet every year students are turned away for lack of funds.

The most recent data from the state indicates that Pennsylvania scholarship organizations awarded 101,060 K–12 scholarships through EITC and OSTC in the 2023–24 school year. Recent increases of \$60 million in EDS funding mean that thousands more economically vulnerable students in Pennsylvania will receive increased scholarship funding for the upcoming school year.

Students attending an Economically Disadvantaged School can receive tuition relief through EITC, OSTC, and supplemental EDS scholarships, as well as the new FSTC program beginning in 2027—all of which will help thousands of low-income students access a private education that they would otherwise be unable to afford.

The tuition for low-income students receiving tax credit scholarships averages less than \$10,000 annually, whereas Pennsylvania spends an average of \$23,061 per student for a public school education. The return on investment for tax credit scholarships benefits students, schools, and the taxpayers who participate in the program.

Continued expansion of school choice options—including tax credit scholarships—coupled with educating stakeholders and the public, plus increased visibility for EITC, OSTC, as well as opting in to the FSTC program, are all key measures toward providing educational opportunity for the next generation of Pennsylvanians.

This report firmly establishes that tax credit scholarships fulfill a core need for low- to middle-income students in Pennsylvania. However, program caps waitlisted forty percent of applications due to program caps.

State lawmakers must, moreover, act to create new funding paths to access school choice options, such as Lifeline Scholarships and the Learning Investment Tax Credit, to help the 68,716 applicants denied tax credit scholarships. Thanks to federal lawmakers and the passage of the federal scholarship tax credit, conversations surrounding private education and tax credit scholarships are now and will continue to be part of the national conversation.

Appendix: 2025–26 List of Economically Disadvantaged Schools

School	City	County
All Saints Catholic School	Cresson	Cambria
Aquinas Academy Catholic School	Greensburg	Westmoreland
Archbishop Carroll High School	Radnor	Delaware
Archbishop Ryan High School Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Archbishop Wood High School	Warminster	Bucks
Beth Shalom Academy	Scranton	Lackawanna
Bethel Christian School	Erie	Erie
Beulah Baptist Christian Day School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Bishop Canevin	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Bishop Carroll High School	Ebensburg	Cambria
Bishop Guilfoyle Academy	Altoona	Blair
Bishop McCort Elementary School	Johnstown	Cambria
Bishop McCort High School	Johnstown	Cambria
Bishop McDevitt High School	Harrisburg	Dauphin
Blessed Sacrament School	Erie	Erie
Blessed Trinity Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Blessed Virgin Mary School	Darby	Delaware
Bradford Area Christian Academy	Bradford	McKean
The Learning Center School	Bradford	McKean
Calvary Baptist Academy	Clymer	Indiana
Calvary Christian Academy	Huntingdon	Huntingdon
Cardinal O'Hara High School	Springfield	Delaware
Campus Laboratory School of Carlow University	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Cathedral Preparatory School	Erie	Erie
CB Community Schools	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Center School	Abington	Montgomery
Champion Christian School	Champion	Westmoreland
Cheder Chabad of Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Cheder Menachem	Wilkes Barre	Luzerne

School	City	County
Christ Dominion Academy	Summerville	Jefferson
Christ the Divine Teacher	Latrobe	Westmoreland
Christian Life Academy	Seneca	Venango
Christian School Association of Greater Harrisburg	Harrisburg	Dauphin
Christian School of York	York	York
Community Country Day School	Erie	Erie
Community Partnership School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Conn-Area Catholic School	Connellsville	Fayette
Conwell-Egan Catholic High School	Fairless Hills	Bucks
Cornerstone Christian Academy	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Cornerstone Christian Preparatory Academy	West Mifflin	Allegheny
Corpus Christi Catholic School	Chambersburg	Franklin
Crawford Christian Academy	Meadville	Crawford
Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Crossroads Foundation	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Delone Catholic High School	McSherrystown	Adams
Diocese of Scranton	Scranton	Lackawanna
Drexel Neumann Academy	Chester	Delaware
DuBois Central Catholic	DuBois	Clearfield
Elk County Catholic School System	St. Mary's	Elk
Father Judge High School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Fellowship Christian HS	Bethlehem	Northampton
Foundation for Enhancing Communities	Harrisburg	Dauphin
Frederick Douglass Christian School	Chester	Delaware
Geibel Catholic High School	Connellsville	Fayette
Geibel Catholic Junior Senior High School	Connellsville	Fayette
Gesu School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Good Shepherd Catholic School	Glenside	Montgomery
Grace Christian School	Kittanning	Armstrong

Appendix: 2025–26 List of Economically Disadvantaged Schools *(continued)*

School	City	County
Grace Prep High School	State College	Centre
Great Commission Christian Schools	Altoona	Blair
Grove City Christian Academy	Grove City	Mercer
Harrisburg Catholic ES	Harrisburg	Dauphin
Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Hillside School	Macungie	Lehigh
Hinkletown Mennonite School	Ephrata	Lancaster
Holy Child Academy	Drexel Hill	Delaware
Holy Infancy School	Bethlehem	Northampton
Holy Name School	Ebensburg	Cambria
Holy Name Cambria	Cambria	Cambria
Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Holy Trinity School	Morrisville	Bucks
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School Altoona	Altoona	Blair
Holy Trinity Catholic School York	York	York
Hope Partnership for Education	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Hunting Park Christian Academy	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Imani Christian Academy	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Immaculate Conception Parish School	Clarion	Clarion
Immanuel Christian School	Hazleton	Luzerne
International Christian High School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
John Paul II Center for Special Learning	Shillington	Berks
Johnstown Christian School	Hollsopple	Somerset
Joshua Group	Harrisburg	Allegheny
Keystone Christian Academy	York	York
Kosloff Torah Academy HS for Girls	Bala Cynwyd	Montgomery
Lancaster Catholic High School	Lancaster	Lancaster
Lancaster Friends School	Lancaster	Lancaster
Lansdowne Friends School	Lansdowne	Delaware
LaSalle Academy	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Liguori Academy	Philadelphia	Philadelphia

School	City	County
Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Lock Haven Catholic School	Lock Haven	Clinton
LOGAN Hope School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Logos Academy	York	York
Marian Catholic High School	Tamaqua	Schuylkill
Martin Saints Classical High School	East Norristown	Montgomery
Mary Queen of Apostles School	New Kensington	Westmoreland
Mercy Career & Technical High School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast High School	Drexel Hill	Delaware
Mother of Divine Grace Interparochial School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Mother Teresa Academy	Erie	Erie
Mount Moriah Christian School	Smithfield	Fayette
Nativity Miguel Scranton	Scranton	Lackawanna
Nativity School of Harrisburg	Harrisburg	Dauphin
Nazareth Prep Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Noah's Ark School	New Paris	Bedford
Northside Catholic Assumption Academy	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Notre Dame de Lourdes Catholic School	Swarthmore	Delaware
Our Lady of the Angels	Columbia	Columbia
Our lady of Lourdes	Coal Township	Northumberland
Our Lady of Peace	Erie	Erie
Our Lady of Port Richmond	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart	Coraopolis	Allegheny
Our Mother of Consolation Parish School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Penn Christian Academy	Butler	Butler
Politz Hebrew Academy	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Providence Christian Academy	Chambersburg	Franklin
Queen of Angels Catholic School	North Huntingdon	Westmoreland
Resurrection Lancaster	Lancaster	Lancaster
Revolution School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia

Appendix: 2025–26 List of Economically Disadvantaged Schools *(continued)*

School	City	County
Roman Catholic High School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Roxborough Christian School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Sacred Heart School	Lancaster	Lancaster
Sacred Heart of Jesus	Lewistown	Mifflin
Saint Anthony of Padua Regional Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Salvaggio Academy	Allentown	Lehigh
Scranton Hebrew Day School	Scranton	Lackawanna
Serra Catholic High School	McKeesport	Allegheny
Seton LaSalle Catholic High School	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic School	Middletown	Dauphin
Shenango Valley/ Kennedy Catholic Schools	Hermitage	Mercer
Solebury School	New Hope	Bucks
Somerset Christian School	Somerset	Somerset
South Hills Catholic Academy	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic Academy	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
St. Athanasius School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Benedict School	Carrolltown	Cambria
St. Benedict the Moor School	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
St. Bernard Regional Catholic School	Indiana	Indiana
St. Cecilia School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Dominic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Francis School	Clearfield	Clearfield
St. Francis de Sales School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Francis School	Erie	Erie
St. Francis of Assisi	Norristown	Montgomery
St. Francis Xavier Catholic School	Gettysburg	Adams
St. George Erie	Erie	Erie
St. Hubert Catholic School for Girls	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. James Catholic School	Erie	Erie
St. James School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Joan of Arc School	Hummelstown	Dauphin

School	City	County
St. Joseph Catholic School	Hanover	York
St. Joseph High School	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
St. Joseph School	York	York
St. Joseph School	Danville	Montour
St. Joseph Lucinda	Lucinda	Clarion
St. John Chrysostom Academy	Bethlehem	Northampton
St. John the Evangelist Catholic School	Bellefonte	Centre
St. John the Evangelist	Uniontown	Fayette
St. John Vianney Regional School	Allentown	Lehigh
St. Joseph Center for Special Learning	Schuylkill Haven	Schuylkill
St. Joseph High School	Natrona Heights	Allegheny
St. Jude School	Erie	Erie
St. Katherine of Siena	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Laurence Grade School	Darby	Delaware
St. Luke Catholic School	Erie	Erie
St. Margaret School	Narberth	Montgomery
St. Margaret Mary Catholic School	Harrisburg	Dauphin
St. Mark's Classical Academy	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Martha Parish School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Matthew School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Matthew Catholic School	Tyrone	Blair
St. Michael School	Greenville	Mercer
St. Michael School	Loretto	Cambria
St. Nicholas Catholic School	Nicktown	Cambria
St. Patrick School	Newry	Blair
St. Peter the Apostle School	Reading	Berks
St. Peter's Catholic School	Somerset	Somerset
St. Peter the Apostle	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
St. Rose of Lima Elementary	Thomasville	York
St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School	Belle Vernon	Fayette
St. Stephen School	Oil City	Venango
St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School	McSherrystown	Adams

Appendix: 2025–26 List of Economically Disadvantaged Schools *(continued)*

School	City	County
St. Theresa Elementary and Middle School	New Cumberland	Cumberland
Stratford Friends School	Newtown Square	Delaware
Ss. Neumann Goretti High School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Susquehanna Waldorf School	Marietta	Lancaster
The City School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
The Divine Redeemer Catholic School	Ford City	Armstrong
The Meadowbrook School	Abington	Montgomery
The Neighborhood Academy	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
The Power Place Academy	Kennett Square	Chester
The Quaker School at Horsham	Horsham	Montgomery
The Samuel School	Camp Hill	Cumberland
The Worship Academy	Harrisburg	Dauphin
Trinity Christian School	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Twin Valley Bible Academy	Narvon	Lancaster
Tyrone Christian Academy	Tyrone	Blair
United Friends School	Quakertown	Bucks
Upper Bucks Christian School	Sellersville	Bucks
Valley Christian School	Huntingdon Valley	Montgomery
Valley Forge Baptist Academy	Collegeville	Montgomery
Visitation BVM Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Philadelphia

School	City	County
Warren County Christian	Youngsville	Warren
West Catholic Preparatory High School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
Yeshivath Achei Tmimim	Pittsburgh	Allegheny
Yeshivath Beth Moshe School	Scranton	Lackawanna
YSC Academy	Chester	Delaware
IMS St. Barnabas Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS Sts. Cyril & Philomena Catholic School	Lansdowne	Delaware
IMS The DePaul Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Frances Cabrini Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Helena Incarnation	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS Holy Cross	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Malachy Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS Our Mother of Sorrows/St. Ignatius of Loyola	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Martin de Porres Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Martin of Tours Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Raymond of Penafort Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Rose of Lima Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School	Philadelphia	Philadelphia
IMS St. Veronica	Philadelphia	Philadelphia



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