

Opportunity Scholarship

Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program (a.k.a. Opportunity Scholarships)

Established during the 2015 Nevada legislative session, the Opportunity Scholarship program provides low-income students with the opportunity to attend a private school of their parents' choice. The scholarships are financed by private businesses, who are then awarded dollar-to-dollar credits against their Modified Business Tax liability.

The amount of tax credits that may be granted under the program was capped at \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2016 and has increased by 10% in each year since. However, lawmakers granted a one-time installment of \$20 million in additional credits during the last legislative session.

By design, Opportunity Scholarships benefit low-income, underserved student populations.



\$44,000
Average household
income of students on
program

To be eligible, families must earn 300 percent or less of the Federal Poverty Line (equal to \$75,300 for a family of four in 2018).

The most recent data indicate that nearly 75 percent of families taking advantage of the program earn less than 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Line.

The average household income for students receiving scholarships is \$44,000 (almost \$30,000 less than the statewide average household income).

Did you know?

The program currently benefits approx. 2,000 school-age children from low-income families by allowing them to escape from a local public school that doesn't suit their needs, and instead attend a private school of their choosing.

The Opportunity Scholarship program must be expanded

Without action by lawmakers, hundreds of low-income children are at risk of losing the scholarships they are currently using to better their educational experience. Lawmakers must act to increase the cap on the program so these children can continue to receive the education they deserve.

Best course of action: Increase funding for the program (by increasing the annual cap on scholarship-financing Modified Business Tax credits) to \$120 million per fiscal year. This amount is sufficient for approx. 25,000 scholarships, annually, representing 5 percent of total student enrollment statewide.

