

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT (OSTC) PROGRAM

In the summer of 2012, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a new regulation that allows eligible students to obtain a scholarship to attend a participating public or private school through the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) Program. To be eligible to apply for the OSTC program, a child's neighborhood school must be designated in the bottom 15% of schools statewide.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), students attending Washington High School are eligible for the Opportunity Tax Credit for the 2024-2025 school year.

The PDE designates schools in the bottom 15% of the state by combining the math and reading Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) proficiency scores from the previous school year.

Please note, the PASA/ PSSA and or Keystone exam only reflects the score on a single state exam and does not provide a comprehensive picture of our schools. The Washington School District does not view single-test assessment results as a true measure of a student's achievement. School staff provide a rich and diverse offering of academic opportunities. The school district values your child's enrollment.

What Does This Mean for Your Child?

Your child is eligible to obtain a scholarship to attend a participating public or nonpublic school through the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC) for the 2024-2025 school year. Your child may qualify for a scholarship even if he or she did not attend Washington High School for the 2023-2024 school year.

How do I know if my child qualifies for the OSTC program?

Eligible students are defined as those students enrolled and attending Washington High School as of the first day of classes.

Where Can I Find More Information?

School Districts have been directed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to have parents and families visit their website (www.education.state.pa.us) for more information.

How do I apply for the OSTC program?

To apply, parents/guardians must contact and enroll their student in a participating public or nonpublic school through an approved Opportunity Scholarship Organization. The list of opportunity scholarship organizations is available on Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) website, <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/schools/school-services/opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program.html>

Please note, each OSO has a different application process. Families should work through the approved OSO, not the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development or Pittsburgh Public Schools to participate in this program. Some OSO's may require a copy of this letter as a part of their process. Please retain this letter for your files.

*Please note that only schools that have applied for admission of students eligible for this program may be selected for use of this tax credit. The information identifying said schools are also located on the website provided above.

If you have any questions, please contact the superintendent of schools, Mr. George Lammay, at 724-223-5112 for more information.