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## Fact Sheet

# Invest in Kids Act

The Invest in Kids Act is a very successful program that allows individuals to fund scholarships through a tax credit that provides middle and low income parents financial assistance in order to send their children to a non-public school in Illinois. The program is in its fourth year and is scheduled to end next year unless the legislature acts to extend it. Please urge your state lawmaker to extend the program by co-sponsoring HB 4076.

The program allows for a 75% credit to a donor on their Illinois state income tax. That donation is directed to a scholarship. Since 2018, over \$139 million has been raised and distributed in 20,706 scholarships. In that same timeframe, there have been 172,989 applications for scholarships. That means only 15 percent of current applications can be provided a scholarship. Demand from working class parents for the Invest in Kids scholarship is far outstripping supply. We should be doing everything we can to expand this opportunity to those families who so clearly desire it.

Unfortunately, Governor has recommended to reduce the current Invest in Kids tax credit from 75% to 40%. This should not be accepted. We should be aiming for a 100% credit, as we need many more donors to the program. Please urge your state lawmaker to oppose the Governor's cuts.

We support taking a portion of this tax credit to fund scholarships to attend a trade school that would be located in Chicago and would provide the opportunity to learn a skilled trade like carpentry, electricity, welding, engineering, etc.

Finally, we are urging the General Assembly to fix the Invest in Kids "super-priority" issue. Unfortunately, the Department of Revenue has interpreted the law so that that there is no guarantee for a student receiving a scholarship that it will last more than one year. Every scholarship student must annually participate in the highly competitive, first-come, first-serve application process with no guarantee of success. We would like the General Assembly to fix the program so that children granted a scholarship would have it for as long as their parents' financial situation did not disqualify them. Please urge your state lawmaker to fix the super-priority issue.