



BLOCS Fact Sheet: Assisting Students in Economically Disadvantaged Schools

OVERVIEW

The Pennsylvania Legislature has created a tax credit program to encourage the funding of scholarships for low- and middle-income children attending private K-12 schools. Scholarship organizations such as BLOCS receive donations from private businesses and individuals to provide need-based scholarships. Donors receive a state tax credit up to 99% of the donated amount.

The Economically Disadvantaged School (EDS) component of the tax credit program directs scholarships to the areas of greatest need.

What are Economically Disadvantaged Schools?

The State Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) annually designates which schools qualify for the EDS program. EDS schools serve predominately low-income families, and the program directs more tax credit scholarships to students attending these schools. By donating to the EDS program, donors provide increased educational opportunity to the students and schools that need it most.

Who Can Receive a Supplemental Scholarship?

Every student who attends an EDS School and receives a tax credit scholarship **automatically receives the EDS supplemental scholarship**.

WHY SUPPORT THE EDS PROGRAM?

The EDS program provides sustainable and critical support to schools existing in underserved communities, ensuring they will not have to close their doors. Donors contribute confidently, knowing that 100% of their money automatically goes to disadvantaged students whose future should not rely on their zip code.

Because of BLOCS' long-standing history as [platinum-rated steward](#) of tax credit donations, the DCED has named BLOCS the administrator of the EDS program in Pa. EDS donors enjoy key benefits over those participating in the established Pa Tax credit program.

- With the approval of the state's budget, the \$750,000 cap has been removed, thereby allowing your company to access unlimited tax credits as donors to the EDS program
- Because the state identifies the participating schools based on pre-selected criteria, your organization can be assured that your donation is going directly into the hands of the students who need it most.
- Because BLOCS recognizes the critical need the EDS program is designed to address, it absorbs all costs to administer the program so 100% of your donation funds scholarships.

To learn more about BLOCS' tax credit program and to speak to a development manager about how you can receive a 99% tax credit on your EDS donation, visit BLOCS.org/eds