

Faith Builders Scholarships

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

Where does the money come from?

Scholarships are funded by businesses and individuals who make donations to the Faith Builders Scholarship Fund. For example, a business may owe \$9,000 in Pennsylvania taxes. Instead of paying that amount entirely in Pennsylvania taxes, the business may voluntarily choose to donate \$10,000 to the Faith Builders Scholarship Fund. In return, the business receives a \$9,000 tax credit through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program.

Donors may designate which schools they would like to support. Faith Builders Scholarship Services manages the program compliance and administration, making the process simple for donors, schools, and patrons.

Who is eligible?

To receive a scholarship, patrons must complete an application by the deadline set by their school, typically in October or November. Eligibility is based on household income. Most families in our communities qualify. If you are unsure if you qualify, we encourage you to apply. Faith Builders will let you know whether you qualify.

The current year's application is distributed by the school treasurer at the August Patrons meeting.

Why should my family apply for a scholarship?

Weaverland Mennonite Schools usually receive more scholarship contributions than they can use. Most qualifying families receive the maximum scholarship amount, which is 70% of the tuition charge. Typically, applying for a scholarship will not reduce the funds available to other families.

Additional funds are often available but cannot be used unless more patrons apply or unless tuition rates increase.

What if I can afford full tuition?

We encourage you to apply for the EITC funds even if you might afford tuition without the scholarship. When possible, patrons are encouraged to contribute the equivalent of full tuition even if they receive a scholarship. In such cases, a donation receipt is issued for the difference between the amount owed after the scholarship and the amount actually paid. This is a great way to keep our schools well-funded while keeping our tuition reasonable for everyone.

Who can donate into the fund?

Initially, participation in the program was limited to businesses. Over time, eligibility has expanded to include many Pennsylvania taxpayers who pay at least \$3,000 in Pennsylvania state taxes per year. Certain requirements and application procedures apply. You can contact Faith Builders Scholarship Services at 814-789-4518 or spe@fbep.org.