

# **TRADERS POINT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

Indiana School Choice Scholarships  
Parent Information  
July 26, 2011



Indiana Department of Education  
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

## INDIANA SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAMS

- ▣ State Funded Voucher Program
  - Funding to eligible students based on school district of residence
- ▣ Scholarship Tax Credit Program
  - Private scholarships to eligible students through a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO)
- ▣ Family Tax Deduction Program
  - Indiana tax deduction for private school expense

# State Voucher Program

- ❑ Gives Hoosier families ability to choose the best school for their children.
- ❑ A voucher, or “Choice Scholarship,” is a state payment that qualifying families can use to offset tuition costs at participating schools.
- ❑ Students qualify based on total household income.
- ❑ The amount of the scholarship corresponds with the public school corporation in which the student lives.

# Scholarship Tax Credit Program

- ❑ Eligible Indiana residents, based on household income, may qualify for a private scholarship to attend your public or private school of choice.
- ❑ Private scholarships are available through state approved Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO). TPCA has partnered with Sagamore Institute for this purpose.
- ❑ Participation in the program is essential for families with Kindergarten students that will need assistance to send their children to private school

# Family Tax Deduction Program

- ❑ Families who already have their children in a private school may not be eligible for the [Choice Voucher Program](#) (see [Voucher Eligibility Requirements](#)).
- ❑ **Indiana Tax Deduction**  
As part of HEA 1003, Hoosier families may claim a tax deduction of up to \$1,000 per dependent child on their state taxes for unreimbursed educational expenses, such as tuition and fees at a private school, textbooks, and other school supplies. The deduction applies to taxable year 2011 and thereafter.

# What is the Voucher Process?

- ❑ Visit the Choice Scholarship website at [www.doe.in.gov/schoolchoice](http://www.doe.in.gov/schoolchoice) to make sure that your family is eligible.
- ❑ Read through the IDOE Frequently Asked Questions document to understand how the Choice Scholarship program works
- ❑ Apply and be admitted to TPCA, per our admissions procedures and standards; we reserve the right to condition enrollment on the student receiving a Choice Scholarship.

# What is the Voucher Process?

(Continued)

- ❑ Work with TPCA to complete the Choice Scholarship application and the FACTS financial information application.
- ❑ Receive notice from IDOE of Choice Scholarship award.
- ❑ Sign state forms twice each year for TPCA to receive voucher payments.
- ❑ Be sure that the information you submit is accurate. Providing false information could affect the student's eligibility.

# What Families Receiving Vouchers Must Know About Attending TPCA

- ❑ Vouchers cover only a portion of TPCA tuition, so families are responsible for the remaining tuition and fees
- ❑ TPCA tuition includes books and most field trip fees.
- ❑ Families applying for a voucher must also apply for TPCA direct assistance through FACTS, at: [www.factstuitionaid.com](http://www.factstuitionaid.com).
- ❑ Families receiving voucher, SGO or TPCA aid must also volunteer time to the Academy.

# What Families Receiving Vouchers Must Know About Attending TPCA

(Continued)

- ❑ TPCA does not participate in the federal Free and Reduced Lunch program.
- ❑ TPCA does not provide transportation to or from the Academy
- ❑ Students wishing to participate in TPCA athletics must meet academic, attendance and behavioral standards and pay a participation fee for each sport annually.
- ❑ TPCA does offer a fee-based before and after care (BASC) program. No breakfast or snacks are provided.

# What Families Receiving Vouchers Must Know About Attending TPCA

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- ❑ TPCA's version of the PTA is called "Parent Teacher Fellowship" (PTF). All parents are automatically members of this vital group, with no dues or fees required.
- ❑ The families at TPCA are a close-knit, welcoming community who strongly support their student's education at the Academy.
- ❑ TPCA communicates with parents through:
  - TPCA website [www.tpcs.org](http://www.tpcs.org)
  - NetClassroom – online access for students grades, billing, etc
  - Classroom and all-school newsletters
  - Facebook – [www.facebook.com/traderspointchristianacademy](http://www.facebook.com/traderspointchristianacademy)
  - Alert Now – automated contact for weather and urgent news

# TPCA Admission Process

- ❑ Complete and submit an application for admission with non-refundable \$75 application fee for each applying student.
- ❑ Notify TPCA admissions staff of any intent to apply for an Indiana voucher and/or SGO scholarship.
- ❑ Every student must participate in an academic assessment and an interview with the appropriate principal.
- ❑ TPCA will notify families if their student is admitted based on application, assessment and interview results.
- ❑ Admitted students must confirm their enrollment by paying a non-refundable enrollment fee.

# TPCA Admission Standards

- ❑ All students must have successfully completed the previous grade and met all academic standards.
- ❑ Students applying for Kindergarten must score a minimum of 70 points on the DIAL assessment given by TPCA.
- ❑ Students applying for grades 1 – 8 must score at a minimum of the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the NWEA assessment .
- ❑ Students applying for grades 9 – 12 must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 out of 4.0 points and score at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on a nationally standardized test.

# TPCA Admission Standards

(Continued)

- ❑ Applicants must have a history of meeting Indiana school attendance requirements.
- ❑ Applicant's prior school records and references should document appropriate student behavior.
- ❑ Applicants not meeting admission standards will be considered for admission on a case by case basis by a TPCA admissions committee.
- ❑ Applicants who require academic support or who have a school issued IEP/504 Plan will be considered for admission on a case by case basis to insure that TPCA has adequate resources to meet their needs.

# Sagamore Institute - SGO

- Mike Lindell, Sagamore Institute

# Information Resources

- ▣ Indiana Department of Education
  - [www.doe.in.gov/schoolchoice](http://www.doe.in.gov/schoolchoice)
- ▣ School Choice Indiana
  - [www.schoolchoiceindiana.com](http://www.schoolchoiceindiana.com)
- ▣ Mrs. Toni Kanzler, TPCA Director of Admissions
  - [tkanzler@tpcs.org](mailto:tkanzler@tpcs.org)
  - 317-769-2450, ext. 243
- ▣ Mrs. Linda Becker, TPCA Registrar
  - [lbecker@tpcs.org](mailto:lbecker@tpcs.org)
  - 317-769-2450, ext 241