

LB1402 Updates

Catching up with a program that is moving fast!



Our Agenda

- Who is eligible and who is prioritized for LB1402 Education Scholarships?
- Suggestions for targeting priority students
- When can LB1402 Education Scholarships be applied?
- Application practicalities – Odyssey
- The future
 - Ballot
 - Raising tax credits down the home stretch

LB1402: NEBRASKA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

NEW STUDENTS

- Student entering Kindergarten, 9th grade, or the first grade offered by a qualified nonpublic school.
- Student transferring from public school any grade K-12.
- Student from an active duty military family, transferring from out of state and entering any grade K-12.

OR

CURRENT STUDENTS

- Students from a family at or below 213% of poverty (CHIP qualifier).
- Student who received an Opportunity Scholarship under LB753.
- The sibling of a student receiving an Education Scholarship.

HOW DOES A STUDENT QUALIFY?

TOP PRIORITY

- Eligible students who received an Opportunity Scholarship in Spring 2024
- Eligible students from families whose income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (Reduced Lunch Program qualifier)
- Eligible students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP);
- Eligible students from families with a member in active duty military or have lost a parent in the line of duty;
- Eligible students in foster care;
- Eligible students who have been denied Option Enrollment to a public school;
- Eligible students who have a documented case of bullying, harassment, or assault

NEXT PRIORITY

- Eligible students from families whose income is above 185% but does not exceed 213% of the federal poverty level

LAST PRIORITY

- Eligible students from families whose income is above 213% of the federal poverty level but does not exceed 300% of the Reduced Lunch Program qualifier

NOTE: SIBLINGS OF STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR AN EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP WILL AUTOMATICALLY QUALIFY TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP AS WELL.

Suggestions on student prioritization

1. Any child looking to transfer from a public school.
2. Any children in your school below 213% poverty.
 - This is everyone on your free/reduced lunch list (185%)...and then some!
3. Any needy children who are new to your school this year (K, 9th, or first grade offered).
 - Includes children who failed, for whatever reason, to apply for LB753 Opportunity Scholarships
 - Includes children who did apply for LB753 Opportunity Scholarships – even if awarded
4. Any other children – if you wonder, send them through
 - The application is free and fast

When can LB1402 Education Scholarships be Applied to Tuition Balances

- Families who receive an Education Scholarship under LB1402 **in the 2024-2025 school year** may use all or part of the funds for the current **or** the following school year (2025-2026).
- This excludes preschool students as they are not currently eligible for the 2024-2025 school year. This also excludes students who will begin in a qualified school next fall (for instance a current 8th grader who will be a 9th grader), unless they meet another criteria under LB1402 for the current school year.
- Should the law be in place in 2025, these students can then apply for the 2025-2026 school year.

LB1402 Application Practicalities

- Parents must select a school – please make sure they do so...or we can't award
- The school must confirm enrollment...or we can't award
- Send the application link directly to parents
 - Not our OSN website
 - Mike at Odyssey sent you that link with a slick parent training video
 - To check in with Mike: mike@withodyssey.com

The Ballot

- What is the referendum number?
 - Ballot Referendum 435.
 - Voting to **RETAIN** will protect kids on scholarship now and in future.
 - Voting to repeal will take education access from families.
 - Spread the word and look out for resources from the NCC and your superintendents.

FAQs – The Future

- Since LB753 expires, and LB1402 is on the ballot, is it possible we have no school choice program next year?
 - Yes, and that would be tragic. Nearly every state offers school choice of some kind, our program just began, and thousands of Nebraskans are benefitting even as public schools receive record funding. It's a win-win that could lose at the ballot...
- If yes, what happens to all these kids?
 - They retain their scholarships for 2024-2025
 - We begin to consider how/if we can fund them for the future
 - Get strategic about the remaining weeks of the Opportunity Scholarships Tax Credit...

Maximizing LB753 Tax Credit

- Will we have some tax credits for scholarships next school year?
 - That's our goal, but we need your help raising them!
givehope.nebraskaopportunity.org
- Can I keep raising tax credits?
 - Yes, and as we enter the 4th Quarter of the fiscal year folks are prepared to contribute!
 - We need the tax credit forms in by **October 21** and payment in-hand before **October 30**. All deadlines are listed at nebraskaopportunity.org/givehope.

Tax Credits: Making a 10-month program impact two years of students

- All designated dollars help your students and put money in statewide general fund (80% to your students, 15% to G.F., 5% to support OSN work).
- Tax credits can now only be applied to public school transfers and for 2025
- Let's keep the pedal down!



Contributor Portal:
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Upcoming Deadlines: LB753 and LB1402

LB753 “Opportunity Scholarships”	New LB1402 “Education Scholarships”
Currently awarding Tier 1-4 late applicants	Currently taking parent applications
Today through October 21: All tax credits reserved for 2025 (or used for recent public school transfers)	Today through October 21: Application open to parents!
October 31 st : Opportunity Scholarships Tax Credit expires = no longer raise scholarship dollars	Late October: Distribution of funds on behalf of families
November: OSN assesses remaining funds and strategizes GOAL: Another round of scholarships for 2025-2026	November 5 th : Election Day



**QUESTIONS?
FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US.**

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