

More about Tuition Tax Credits and Scholarship Granting Organizations.

On February 27, a communication regarding Tuition Tax Credits was sent via my daily email. An [article](#) (attached) in the Ohio Capital Journal by Megan Henry provides a more in-depth coverage than presented in the February 27 [email](#).

Ohioans receive millions in tax credits through Scholarship Granting Organizations

Scholarship Granting Organizations are nonprofits that give scholarships to private school students. The tax-credit scholarship program refunds SGO donors up to \$750 per individual or up to \$1,500 per married couple filing jointly.

By: [Megan Henry](#) - February 26, 2025 4:50 am

Ohioans have received more than \$12 million worth of tax credits for donations given to Scholarship Granting Organizations during the 2021 and 2022 tax season, according to the [Ohio Department of Taxation](#).

Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) are nonprofits that give scholarships to private school students. The tax-credit scholarship program refunds SGO donors up to \$750 per individual or up to \$1,500 per married couple filing jointly.

“The SGOs were created basically as an opportunity for residents or individuals to make donations for scholarships and receive a tax credit on their Ohio income tax liability,” said Ann Riddle, director of provider school outreach for School Choice Ohio.

For the 2021 tax year, \$268,616 worth of tax credit was claimed on 523 returns. Those numbers ballooned to \$11.9 million worth of tax credits that were claimed on nearly 11,000 returns for the 2022 tax year, according to the ODT. The state’s tax department will post the 2023 tax return data this spring.

Ohio is one of 20 states that has a tax-credit scholarship program, according to [Education Week](#).

SGOs were born out of Ohio’s 2021 state operating budget. Each SGO is able to determine scholarship amounts and there is no income limit to receive a scholarship through an SGO, although students from low-income families are prioritized, according to [EdChoice](#). SGOs must use more than half of their program service expenses on student scholarships, according to EdChoice.

“It’s for tuition and it helps families that don’t have that money so they can go to school,” Riddle said.

However, Ohio has near-universal school choice vouchers. The 2023 state budget expanded school vouchers eligibility to 450% of the poverty line — meaning a family of four above the \$135,000 income threshold can [still be eligible for at least 10% of the maximum scholarship](#).

SGOs are part of Ohio lawmakers’ plan “to privatize public education,” said Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding Executive Director William Phillis.

“It’s just part of the grand scheme to put public schools out of business, except for having a place for children with disabilities and children with severely disadvantaged poverty,” he said. “It’s just a matter of defunding public education.”

[Ohio spent nearly a billion dollars](#) on private school scholarship programs during the first full year with near-universal school vouchers.

Despite the school vouchers, Riddle said there is still a need for SGOs since the Education Choice scholarship doesn’t cover full tuition.

K-8 students can receive a \$6,165 scholarship and high schoolers can receive a \$8,407 scholarship in state funding under the expansion.

“That doesn’t cover a lot of the tuition for many of the schools that I work with,” Riddle said.

How do SGOs operate?

The [Ohio Attorney General's Office certifies SGOs](#) and there are currently 60 SGOs for the 2024-25 school year, according to EdChoice. SGO certification is an annual process.

Several schools can be part of an SGO. For example, [Every Child Every Family](#) awarded \$1.7 million in scholarships for the 2024-25 school year to 637 students in 80 schools, Riddle said.

Some Catholic dioceses also have their own SGO for the K-12 schools in their diocese.

Some schools create their own SGO, such as the St. Francis de Sales High School Foundation in Toledo or the Saint Joseph Academy Scholarship Granting Organization in Cleveland.

The number of [SGOs certified by the AG's office has increased over the years](#). There were seven SGOs certified in 2021, 33 in 2022, 63 in 2023, 65 in 2024 and eight so far this year as of Tuesday.

“It’s just an opportunity for parents to have a choice, which is really great, and to be able to afford that choice,” Riddle said. “Because, again, if you know the school around the corner is not working out, then it’s an opportunity for them to have that choice and have funds available.”

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