



Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Choice Scholarships

Background & Implications

June 30, 2011



Context

- **Required to have the Choice Scholarship program ready for the 2011-2012 school year**
- **Enrollment capped at 7,500 students for 2011-2012; 15,000 students for 2012-2013**
- **Household income may not exceed 50% above cutoff for Reduced Lunch (roughly \$62k for a family of four)**
- **FAQ document on IDOE's *Putting Students First* page**
- **IDOE accepting school applications right now; will accept student applications in early July**



Program Details

- **Most students would not be eligible until 2nd grade**
- **Parent and school will jointly sign a ‘distribution endorsement’ form before any payments are made**
- **Payments will be made in October and February. Timing will allow IDOE to run the STN data internally after Count Date**
- **IDOE required to do a special distribution via regular funding formula of net savings to the state from the program**



Program Details

- **Eligible individual**
 - **must have spent past two semesters in an Indiana public school, unless they received a School Scholarship (i.e. tax credit scholarship) in the previous year**
 - **has legal settlement in Indiana;**
 - **is at least 5 yrs of age and less than 22 yrs of age;**
 - **either has been or is currently enrolled in an accredited school; and**
 - **meets household income requirements.**



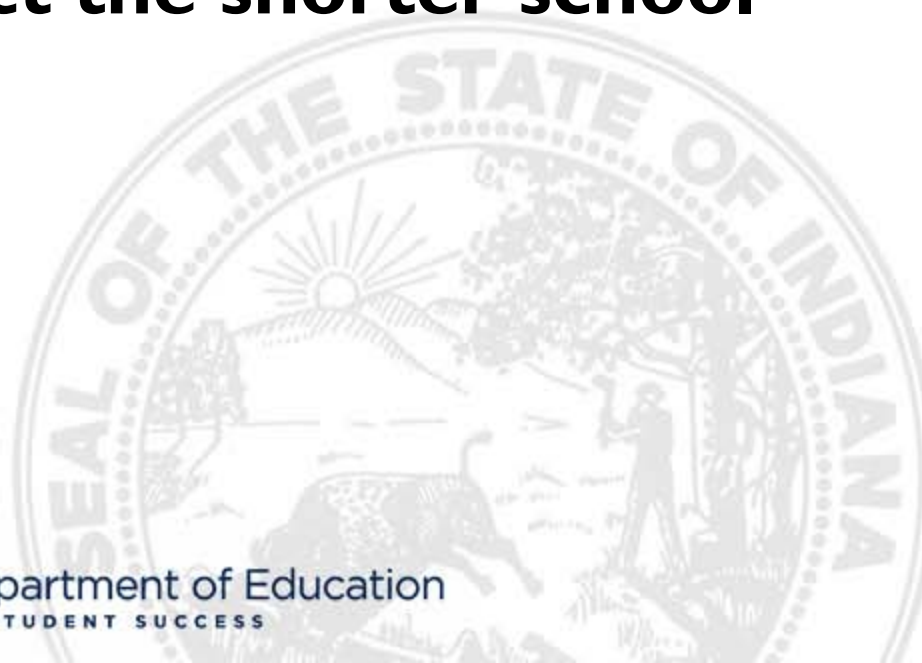
Choice Scholarship calculation

- **The scholarship is the lesser of three amounts:**
 - **Tuition and fees at the participating school;**
 - **\$4,500 for grades 1-8; or,**
 - **An amount based off the per-student state funding for the student's school corporation of legal settlement, determined as follows:**
 - **90%** of funding formula amount if the household income is up to 100% of Reduced Lunch eligibility (approx. \$41,000 for a family of four)
 - **50%** of formula amount if household income is up to 150% of Reduced Lunch eligibility (approx. \$62,000 for a family of four)



Choice Scholarship

- **If an eligible student enrolls in an eligible school for less than one year, the choice scholarship provided for that school year is prorated to reflect the shorter school term.**



Implications

- **A-F metrics will be the same for all schools (traditional public, public charter, Choice Scholarship participants); will be public**
- **HEA 1001 requires Choice Scholarship savings to be put back into the funding formula via a special distribution...but this distribution is not weighted towards which corporations lose students to the Choice Scholarship program**
- **Could be some requests for student attendance records, since participating schools will play a significant role in determining eligibility. Please try to be helpful. (We will try to catch some of these queries by pointing schools to IDOE's STN lookup)**
- **Formal rulemaking done by IDOE, not State Board. As Year 1 of the program evolves, we will build off the lessons accordingly.**

