

TO: Tax Credit Scholarship Parents, Grand Parents,
Foster Parents, Guardians, School Leaders and Friends
FROM: Empower Illinois
DATE: May 10, 2019
SUBJECT: #SaveMyScholarship Campaign



The Future of the Tax Credit Scholarship Campaign — The Invest in Kids Act

Currently, the Invest in Kids Act is the ONLY cut in the entire state budget, and Empower Illinois is working to ensure affected scholarship recipients and their family members have the opportunity to tell Illinois' elected officials that the Tax Credit Scholarship program matters. Through the #SaveMyScholarship campaign, Empower Illinois, parents, grandparents, foster parents, teachers, and school leaders from across the state are traveling to Springfield every day until the end of May.

These next weeks are critical for the future of the Tax Credit Scholarship program; in addition to the survival of the program itself, a show of strength now, combined with support from our friends in labor will allow us to make many major improvements to items such as super-priority status, and other incentives to allow more children to participate—changes that can be made in 2020—which is critical to students at all participating schools.

Invitation

We are inviting families to participate in the #SaveMyScholarship campaign and could use their very unique voices to help save this program (and the more than 41,000 kids seeking scholarships).

Activities

Participants will join the Empower Illinois team in Springfield sometime over the next few days/weeks leading up to May 31st.

Financial and logistical support will be provided from Empower's field team. Participants will be provided t-shirts, signage, talking points, and will:

- Drive to Springfield
- Guided by Empower staff, meet with legislators
- Connect their names and faces to the families who benefit from Tax Credit Scholarships via our videographer.

Empower Illinois recently joined hands with several major trade unions in support of the program:

- International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Engineers, Local 134
- LiUNA Laborers Local 4
- Many more to be confirmed in the coming days

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, email info@empowerillinois.org.