



Notice of Opportunity Scholarships

Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Dear Port Allegany Jr. Sr. High School Parent or Guardian,

We would like to make you aware of the choices available to you based on the results of your child's school on the 2021-2022 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and/or Keystone Exams. The PSSA and Keystones are annual exams given to Pennsylvania students at various grade levels to measure their academic progress.

The Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTCP) was created pursuant to Act 85 of 2012 (72 P.S. § 1701-G.1, *et seq*) and amended by Act 86 of 2016 (24 P.S. § 2001-B, *et seq*). This program enables eligible students residing within the boundaries of Pennsylvania Department of Education identified schools to apply for a scholarship to attend another public or nonpublic school. PDE identifies public schools based on the combined math and reading scores on the previous school year PSSA.

During the prior school year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education identified 322 schools from the 500 public school districts in Pennsylvania as eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program. The Port Allegany Jr. Sr. High School has been identified as an eligible school for the 2023-2024 school year.

Under the OSTCP program, the Port Allegany Jr. Sr. High School must offer students the choice to transfer to participating public school districts or nonpublic schools. According to the PDE website, there are no public schools in the Seneca Highlands Intermediate Unit 9 area currently accepting OSTCP scholarships. You can review the list of scholarship organizations for the school districts and nonpublic schools that are participating in this program. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity for your child to attend another school, you must go to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) website: www.dced.pa.gov/programs/opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program-ostc/ DCED has information regarding the application process. Scholarships are contingent upon available funding.

Additional information is available on our school district website www.pasdedu.org and the PA Department of Education website <http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Opportunity%20Scholarship%20Tax%20Credit%20Program/Pages/default.aspx#tab-1>

Sincerely,

Gary Buchsen, Superintendent