



## Frequently Asked Questions by Parents

### **How do I apply for a Pay it Forward Scholarship?**

Complete the online application at <https://www.payitforwardscholarships.com/scholarship>. Your most recently filed tax return must be attached to the application in order to be successfully submitted.

### **What is the deadline to apply for a Pay it Forward Scholarship?**

December 31st for the upcoming scholarship cycle. Ex: December 31, 2019 for the 2020 Pay it Forward Scholarship

### **How do I know if my child is approved for a Pay it Forward Scholarship?**

Your child is automatically approved once you complete the online application process. PIFS will review and audit applications and contact you if we have a question regarding your child's eligibility or if information is missing from the application.

### **How are the scholarships funded?**

Pay it Forward Scholarships are funded by the Georgia Qualified Education Expense Tax Credit program. The GA QEE Tax Credit Program provides a dollar-for-dollar tax credit when Georgia taxpayers request the tax credit, are approved, and then donate their tax credit to Pay it Forward Scholarships. Tax credits are available on a first-come, first served basis through the GA Department of Revenue. PIFS requests tax credits for our donors annually in January. Funds must be paid within 60 days of being approved. Taxpayers decide what school they want their funds to benefit. For more information about the tax credit program please see our document entitled "Frequently Asked Questions by Donors."

### **How much of a scholarship will my child receive?**

Your child will receive an equal distribution of any scholarship funds received by PIFS that are designated for your school. Ex: If PIFS receives funds for ABC School and there are 10 approved students (including your child) who we verified are enrolled/enrolling at ABC School, we would divide those funds equally amongst the 10 students. You can review the past year's scholarship distributions at [https://www.payitforwardscholarships.com/school\\_funds](https://www.payitforwardscholarships.com/school_funds) to get an estimated amount. If no funds are received for your child's school, there are no funds to distribute. Scholarship funds vary from year to year. PIFS does not provide a guaranteed scholarship amount prior to our distribution. Scholarships are meant to be a help to parents who are sending their child to private school. It is a rare circumstance that PIFS provides a full-tuition scholarship.

### **When are Pay it Forward Scholarships distributed?**

PIFS distributes scholarship funds on an annual basis. Our goal is to have all funds distributed by April 15th of each year.

### **How are Pay it Forward Scholarships distributed to the school?**

PIFS began the transition from paper checks to electronic distribution via the ClassWallet platform with the 2019 scholarship. As we continue this transition, we will be distributing a few scholarships via paper checks and credit card with the understanding that by 2021 the distribution will be entirely paperless.

### **Does my child's school have to do anything to receive the funds?**

No. PIFS does all the scholarship administration. PIFS only asks the school to verify enrollment of students, then the school credits your child's account with the scholarship when it is received.

### **What if my school uses or promotes a different student scholarship organization?**

No problem at all. We encourage parents to maximize their scholarship resources, just like college and layer scholarships from many SSOs. The Georgia Department of Education sets an annual cap of scholarship funds per child.

### **What if my child's school says it won't accept scholarships from other SSOs?**

Just let them know that the Georgia Department of Education has ruled that your scholarship is your property and not the school's. You don't have to go through the school's financial aid to receive a Pay it Forward Scholarship.

### **Do I have to reapply for my child to receive the scholarship each year?**

Yes, you need to submit an updated application each year you wish for your child to receive a scholarship. Once your child is approved and receives a scholarship, he/she remains eligible for their entire school career, but PIFS must have updated information on file each year.