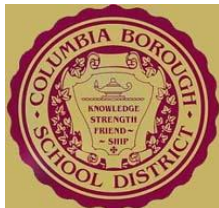


PARENT NOTIFICATION LETTER FOR OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS



Notice of Opportunity Scholarships Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child

April 30, 2014

Dear Columbia Borough School District Parent or Guardian,

The Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTCP) was created pursuant to Act 85 of 2012 (72 P.S. §1701-G.1, *et seq*). This program enables eligible students residing within the boundaries of a low-achieving school to apply for a scholarship to attend a participating public or nonpublic school. A low achieving school is defined as a public elementary or secondary school ranking in the bottom 15 percent of its designation as an elementary or secondary school. This ranking is based upon the combined math and reading scores from the previous school year's PASA/PSSA and/or Keystone exams.

The scholarships are funded by businesses that make contributions to scholarship organizations in exchange for a tax credit. The number of scholarships available to parents depends on the amount of contributions made by businesses.

The Columbia JSHS and Park Elementary are on the list of the bottom 15 percent for combined performance on the math/algebra 1 and reading/literature tests on the 2014 PASA/PSSA and/or Keystone exams.

Opportunity scholarships will be awarded by approved opportunity scholarship organizations, not the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The list of opportunity scholarship organizations is available on DCED's website, www.newpa.com/ostc. This link provides specific instructions on how to contact approved opportunity scholarship organizations. Additional information is available on our school district's website www.columbia.k12.pa.us and on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website at www.education.state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

Columbia Borough School District

Questions should be directed to:
Brian T Schell
District Administrative Center
200 N. 5th Street
Columbia, PA, 17512
717-681-2216