

## **Columbia Borough School District Statement on the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program**

The *Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program* was created in 2012, in response to Act 85. 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 non-public 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 reading and math scores from the previous school year's PSSA/PASA and/or Keystone Exams.

These 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.

Opportunity Scholarships are not awarded by the Columbia Borough School District. The list of Opportunity Scholarship Organizations is available at the Department of Community and Economic Development website, [www.newpa.com/ostc](http://www.newpa.com/ostc). Additional details regarding the application process are located on this website as well.