

2021 Kansas Statutes

72-4354. Scholarship granting organization; eligibility; disbursement of scholarship funds; annual reports. (a) To be eligible to participate in the program, a scholarship granting organization shall comply with the following:

- (1) The scholarship granting organization shall notify the secretary and the state board of the scholarship granting organization's intent to provide educational scholarships;
 - (2) upon granting an educational scholarship, the scholarship granting organization shall report such information to the state board;
 - (3) the scholarship granting organization shall provide verification to the secretary that the scholarship granting organization is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986;
 - (4) upon receipt of contributions in an aggregate amount or value in excess of \$50,000 during a school year, a scholarship granting organization shall file with the state board either:
 - (A) A surety bond payable to the state in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of contributions expected to be received during the school year; or
 - (B) financial information demonstrating the scholarship granting organization's ability to pay an aggregate amount equal to the amount of the contributions expected to be received during the school year, which must be reviewed and approved of in writing by the state board;
 - (5) scholarship granting organizations that provide other nonprofit services in addition to providing educational scholarships shall not commingle contributions made under the program with other contributions made to such organization. A scholarship granting organization under this subsection shall also file with the state board, prior to the commencement of each school year, either:
 - (A) A surety bond payable to the state in an amount equal to the aggregate amount of contributions expected to be received during the school year; or
 - (B) financial information demonstrating the nonprofit organization's ability to pay an aggregate amount equal to the amount of the contributions expected to be received during the school year, which must be reviewed and approved of in writing by the state board;
 - (6) each qualified school receiving educational scholarships from the scholarship granting organization shall annually certify to the scholarship granting organization its compliance with the requirements of the program;
 - (7) at the end of the calendar year, the scholarship granting organization shall have its accounts examined and audited by a certified public accountant. Such audit shall include, but not be limited to, information verifying that the educational scholarships awarded by the scholarship granting organization were distributed to qualified schools with respect to eligible students determined by the state board under K.S.A. 72-4353(c), and amendments thereto, and information specified in this section. Prior to filing a copy of the audit with the state board, such audit shall be duly verified and certified by a certified public accountant; and
 - (8) if a scholarship granting organization decides to limit the number or type of qualified schools who will receive educational scholarships, the scholarship granting organization shall provide, in writing, the name or names of those qualified schools to any contributor and the state board.
- (b) No scholarship granting organization shall provide an educational scholarship with respect to any eligible student to attend any qualified school with paid staff or paid board members, or relatives thereof, in common with the scholarship granting organization.

(c) The scholarship granting organization shall disburse not less than 90% of contributions received pursuant to the program in the form of educational scholarships within 36 months of receipt of such contributions. If such contributions have not been disbursed within the applicable 36-month time period, then the scholarship granting organization shall not accept new contributions until 90% of the received contributions have been disbursed in the form of educational scholarships. Any income earned from contributions must be disbursed in the form of educational scholarships.

(d) A scholarship granting organization may continue to provide an educational scholarship with respect to a student who was an eligible student in the year immediately preceding the current school year.

(e) A scholarship granting organization shall direct payments of educational scholarships to the qualified school attended by the eligible student or in which the eligible student is enrolled. Payment may be made by check made payable to both the parent and the qualified school or to only the qualified school. If an eligible student transfers to a new qualified school during a school year, the scholarship granting organization shall direct payment in a prorated amount to the original qualified school and the new qualified school based on the eligible student's attendance. If the eligible student transfers to a public school and enrolls in such public school after September 20 of the current school year, the scholarship granting organization shall direct payment in a prorated amount to the original qualified school and the public school based on the eligible student's attendance. The prorated amount to the public school shall be considered a donation and shall be paid to the school district of such public school in accordance with K.S.A. 72-1142, and amendments thereto.

(f) Each qualified school shall provide a link to the state department of education's webpage where the reports prepared pursuant to K.S.A. 72-5170, and amendments thereto, and K.S.A. 2021 Supp. 72-5178, and amendments thereto, for such school are published. The link shall be prominently displayed on the school's accountability reports webpage.

(g) By June 1 of each year, a scholarship granting organization shall submit a report to the state board for the educational scholarships provided in the immediately preceding 12 months. Such report shall be in a form and manner as prescribed by the state board, approved and signed by a certified public accountant, and shall contain the following information:

- (1) The name and address of the scholarship granting organization;
- (2) the name and address of each eligible student with respect to whom an educational scholarship was awarded by the scholarship granting organization;
- (3) the total number and total dollar amount of contributions received during the 12-month reporting period; and
- (4) the total number and total dollar amount of educational scholarships awarded during the 12-month reporting period and the total number and total dollar amount of educational scholarships awarded during the 12-month reporting period with respect to eligible students who qualified under K.S.A. 72-4352(d), and amendments thereto.

(h) No scholarship granting organization shall:

- (1) Provide an educational scholarship with respect to an eligible student that is established by funding from any contributions made by any relative of such eligible student; or
- (2) accept a contribution from any source with the express or implied condition that such contribution be directed toward an educational scholarship for a particular eligible student.

History: L. 2014, ch. 93, § 58; L. 2015, ch. 99, § 22; L. 2019, ch. 19, § 8; L. 2021, ch. 114, § 16; July 1.