

Student Socioeconomic Data for Lifeline Scholarships

KEY POINTS

- **Minority, low-income students are overrepresented in underperforming schools.** According to the [Future Ready PA Index](#), the bottom 15% of underperforming public schools have the following student characteristics:
 - Race: 41% Black, 34% Hispanic, 17% White, 3% Asian, and 5% 2 or more races
 - 79% economically disadvantaged
 - 2% homeless
- **Lifeline Scholarships follow the same eligibility criteria as the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program.** A student must reside within the boundary of a low-achieving public school to receive an OSTC scholarship.
 - The [Independent Fiscal Office](#) (IFO) breaks down OSTC recipients by priority categories based on federal poverty levels.
 - The IFO found that “For FY 2019-20, 70% of [OSTC] scholarships and 77% of funding went to students categorized as priority. Roughly half of [OSTC] scholarships went to students below 185% of the FPL and residing in the Philadelphia School District.”

**Table 2.11
EOSTC Scholarship Awards**

	FY 2018-19		FY 2019-20	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Total EOSTC Scholarships	15,949	\$42.7	21,045	\$41.7
Priority Scholarships Awarded:				
Below 185% FPL	2,752	\$8.5	3,609	\$10.6
Below 185% FPL & 1st Class S.D.	7,364	\$19.2	10,395	\$20.2
Below 185% FPL & Financial Recovery S.D.	473	\$0.9	682	\$1.3

Note: Millions of dollars. FPL is federal poverty level.
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

- **Philadelphia students are stuck in low-achieving schools.** According to a report by [Philadelphia School Partnership](#), six out of every ten Philadelphia students attend a low-achieving school. These schools are predominately located in Northwest Philadelphia, Southwest Philadelphia, and Olney/North Philadelphia.
 - Note that the report uses different criteria for low-achieving schools than Lifeline Scholarships.