



Robert Gentilezza <robert.gentilezza@ssdedu.org>

Fwd: Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program - notification of low-achieving school(s)

1 message

Erin Keating <erin.keating@ssdedu.org>

Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 4:02 PM

To: Robert Gentilezza <robert.gentilezza@ssdedu.org>, Al ODonnell <al.odonnell@ssdedu.org>, Robert Deluca <robert.deluca@ssdedu.org>

Here

Erin Keating, Ed.D., Superintendent
Scranton School District
425 North Washington Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503
570-348-3400

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **ED, OSTCP** <RA-ostcp@pa.gov>

Date: Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 3:25 PM

Subject: Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program - notification of low-achieving school(s)

To: erin.keating@ssdedu.org <erin.keating@ssdedu.org>

Pennsylvania
Department of Education

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Dr Erin Keating

SCRANTON SD

[425 N Washington Ave](#)[Scranton PA 18503-1305](#)

Sent Via Electronic Mail Only

Dear Dr Erin Keating,

The Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) Program was established in state law in 2012 to enable eligible students, residing within the boundaries of low-achieving schools, as defined by the law, to apply for a scholarship to attend a participating public or nonpublic school.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is required to officially notify you that the SCRANTON SD has been identified as having at least one school designated as a low-achieving school, based upon 2024-25 school year assessments. The following is the school code(s) and school name(s) within the district designated as low achieving, for the purposes of the OSTC Program:

000002481 ISAAC TRIPP EL SCH

000006970 MCNICHOLS PLAZA

000004736 JOHN F. KENNEDY NO 7

000002455 JOHN ADAMS NO 4

000002487 SOUTH SCRANTON INTRMD SCH

000007700 NORTHEAST INTRMD SCH

Section 2002-B of the Public School Code (24 P.S. § 20-2002-B) defines a “low-achieving school” for the OSTC Program as follows:

"A public school that ranked in the lowest 15% of the school's designation as an elementary school or a secondary school based on combined mathematics and reading scores from the annual assessment administered in the previous school year and for which the Department of Education has posted results on the Department of Education's publicly accessible Internet website. As the Statute, the term does not include a charter school, cyber charter school, career and technical school and any closed schools.

The 2026-27 list of low-achieving schools for the OSTC Program is based on the combined Mathematics/Algebra I and Reading/Literature scores from the most recent administration of the PASA, PSSA, and/or Keystone assessments. This list is for the purpose of the OSTC Program. Therefore, charter schools, cyber charter schools, closed schools, and career and technical centers (CTCs) are excluded from this list (24 P.S. § 20-2002-B). Inclusion on this list does not constitute a federal accountability designation, including identification for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI).

Pursuant to 24 P.S. § 20-2010-B(c), within 15 days of receiving this letter, the district must take the following actions:

- Notify the parents or guardians of all students currently attending or residing within the attendance boundary of the low-achieving school of the school's status for the 2026-27 school year; and notify the parents or guardians of kindergarten students who are registered or are in the process of registering at a low-achieving school. This notice must be provided by sending the letter developed by PDE, which can be accessed using the link below or available on PDE's website.

[Sample Parent/Caregiver Notification Letter](#)

- Post the list of school(s) in the district that have been identified as low achieving for the 2026-27 school year and the attached overview of the OSTC Program on the district's publicly accessible website information. In addition to a description of the program, the attached information includes instructions for applying for a scholarship and parental responsibilities regarding enrolling their child in a participating public or nonpublic school.

[Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development](#)

PDE posts the list of low-achieving schools annually so that eligible students can apply for scholarships for the upcoming school year. Students who reside in an attendance zone of a school previously identified as low achieving for the OSTC Program but is not included on the 2026-27 list, may apply to a scholarship organization to continue receiving a scholarship.

Sincerely,



Amy Lena

Deputy Secretary

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Tom Dubbs | Basic Education Associate II

Department of Education | School Services Office

[607 South Drive | Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600](#)

Phone: 717. 214.8212

www.education.pa.gov