

## giving parents a choice-giving children a chance

## About The BISON Children's Scholarship Fund

The BISON Children's Scholarship Fund is a privately funded partial tuition assistance program for low-income children living in the eight counties of Western New York: Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Wyoming and Orleans.

BISON's goal is to equalize educational opportunities for elementary students by offering low-income families educational options normally denied them because of cost. BISON believes that every child should have the chance to succeed. BISON makes a minimum of a four-year commitment to each student awarded a scholarship, but has set a goal of providing scholarships to students throughout their grammar school years.

Thanks to the generosity of the Western New York community and matching grants from the Children Scholarship Fund (CSF), the BISON Scholarship Fund has grown from helping 200 children in its first year to more than 1,800 children today. These BISON children attend over 69 different private or Catholic schools in the greater Buffalo area.

While BISON's dramatic growth in scholarship support is remarkable, the demand for BISON scholarships is even more overwhelming as awareness of the program has heightened.

This demand is our challenge; we appreciate your generosity to help more children have a better chance for a brighter future!

## How to Apply

March 31, 2017

Attention Western New York Families! The BISON Fund is a privately funded tuition assistance program offering partial tuition assistance to low income families. Families awarded a BISON scholarship can enroll their child in any Kindergarten through 8th grade private school of choice in the greater Buffalo area. Scholarships are awarded by annual lottery drawing and are not academic or race-based scholarships, but awarded solely based on need.

**Pre- Applications for the 2017-2018 school year are available at** <u>www.bisonfund.com</u> If you have questions or need more information, contact the BISON Fund at 716-854-0869 ext. 1

## BISON Children's Scholarship Fund Dates to Remember

Renewals due for all returning students

January 3, 2017	New student Pre-Applications will be available for the 2017-2018 academic year at www.bisonfund.com
February 13, 2017	Online Requalification available for returning students for the 2017-2018 academic year
February 28, 2017	Deadline for new families to submit Pre-Applications
March 10, 2017	Lottery drawing to award new scholarships, families selected will be notified by e-mail to fill out a full online application. The families wait listed will be notified by mail.

April 30, 2017

Deadline for new awardees to complete the full online application

May 1, 2017

Awards will begin to be issued

BISON Children's Scholarship Fund - Quick Facts from the 2017-2018 Academic Year

- -The BISON Fund is a privately funded tuition assistance program offering partial tuition assistance to low income families
- -Families are required to contribute a minimum of \$500 towards each child's education to be eligible for BISON funding
- -The BISON Fund is currently providing tuition assistance for 1,800 children attending 69 different private schools in Western New York
- -425 new students were added to the BISON program this academic year
- -The average scholarship awarded in the 2016-2017 school year was \$1,300
- -The greatest award given was \$1,800 per student
- -The total amount of money awarded in the 2016-2017 academic year was \$2.3 million
- -Families awarded a BISON scholarship can enroll their child in any Kindergarten through 8th grade private school of choice in the greater Buffalo area.
- -Scholarships are awarded by **annual lottery drawing** and are not academic or race-based scholarships, but awarded solely based on need
- -BISON makes a minimum of a four-year commitment to each student awarded a scholarship, but has set a goal of providing scholarships to students throughout their grammar school years.

**BISON** contacts:

Cindy McDonald, Program Director (Program questions) 854-0869 ext. 1 or cmcdonald@bisonfund.com

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