

# Wilkes-Barre Area School District

730 SOUTH MAIN STREET WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18711-0375

SUPERINTENDENT: (570) 826-7111 Ext. 1148 FAX: (570) 819-5010

BOARD SECRETARY: (570) 826-7111 Ext. 1162 FAX: (570) 819-5011



Joseph A. Caffrey, President  
Denise T. Thomas, Vice President  
Dr. Brian J. Costello, Superintendent  
Thomas F. Telesz, Board Secretary/Business Administrator

## Members of the Board

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| Mark Atherton     | John R. Quinn      |
| Arthur W. Breese  | Dr. James F. Susek |
| Joseph A. Caffrey | Denise T. Thomas   |
| Ned J. Evans      | Rev. Shawn Walker  |
| Beth Anne Harris  |                    |



## Notice of Opportunity Scholarships Please Read: Important Information Affecting Your Child

January 30, 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We would like to make you aware of the choices available to you based on the results of your child's school on the 2023-2024 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and/or Keystone Exams. The PSSA and Keystone Exams are annual exams given to Pennsylvania students at various grade levels to measure their academic progress.

The Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTCP) was created pursuant to Act 85 of 2012 (72 P.S. § 1701-G.1, et seq) and amended by Act 86 of 2016 (24 P.S. § 2001-B, et seq). This program enables eligible students residing within the boundaries of low-achieving schools to apply for a scholarship to attend another public or nonpublic school. A low-achieving school is defined as a public elementary or secondary school ranking in the bottom 15% of their designation as elementary or secondary school based on the combined math and reading scores on the previous school year PSSA.

GAR Middle School is on the list of the bottom 15% for performance on the combined Math and Reading tests on the 2023-2024 PSSA and/or Keystone exams.

Under the OSTCP program, GAR Middle School must offer students the choice to transfer to another school district or nonpublic school. Please know that the staff at GAR Middle School has a relationship with your child and wants to continue serving your child. However, if you feel your child will be better served in another school, you may request a transfer for your child to one of the schools participating in the OSTCP.

If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity for your child to attend another school, you must go to the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) website: <https://dc.ed.pa.gov/programs/opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program-ostc/>

You can review the list of scholarship organizations for the school districts and nonpublic schools that are participating in this program. DCED has information regarding the application process. Scholarships are contingent upon available funding.

Additional information is available on our school district website <https://www.wbasd.k12.pa.us/OSTCP.aspx> and the PA Department of Education website <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/schools/school-services/opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program.html>.

Sincerely,

Marlena Nockley  
GAR Middle School Principal

## Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District Superintendent, 730 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0375, 570-826-7111

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#### Aviso de Oportunidad de Becas

#### Por favor lea: Información importante que afecta a su hijo

30 de enero de 2025

Estimados padres o tutores,

Nos gustaría informarle sobre las opciones disponibles para usted en función de los resultados de la escuela de su hijo en los exámenes del Sistema de Evaluación Escolar de Pensilvania (PSSA) y / o Keystone 2023-2024. El PSSA y el Keystones son exámenes anuales que se realizan a los estudiantes de Pensilvania en varios niveles de grado para medir su progreso académico.

El Programa de Crédito Fiscal para Becas de Oportunidad (OSTCP, por sus siglas en inglés) fue creado de conformidad con la Ley 85 de 2012 (72 P.S. § 1701-G.1, et seq) y enmendado por la Ley 86 de 2016 (24 P.S. § 2001-B, et seq). Este programa permite a los estudiantes elegibles que residen dentro de los límites de las escuelas de bajo rendimiento solicitar una beca para asistir a otra escuela pública o no pública. Una escuela de bajo rendimiento se define como una escuela primaria o secundaria pública que se encuentra en el 15% inferior de su designación como primaria de escuela secundaria en función de los puntajes combinados de matemáticas y lectura en el año escolar anterior PSSA.

La Escuela Intermedia GAR está en la lista del 15% inferior en rendimiento en las pruebas combinadas de Matemáticas y Lectura en los exámenes PSSA y/o Keystone 2023-2024.

Bajo el programa OSTCP, la Escuela Intermedia GAR debe ofrecer a los estudiantes la opción de transferirse a otro distrito escolar o escuela no pública. Tenga en cuenta que el personal de la Escuela Intermedia GAR tiene una relación con su hijo y quiere continuar sirviéndole. Sin embargo, si cree que su hijo estará mejor atendido en otra escuela, puede solicitar una transferencia para su hijo a una de las escuelas que participan en el OSTCP.

Si desea aprovechar esta oportunidad para que su hijo asista a otra escuela, debe visitar el sitio web del Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario y Económico (DCED): <https://dced.pa.gov/programs/opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program-ostc/>

Puede revisar la lista de organizaciones de becas para los distritos escolares y las escuelas no públicas que participan en este programa. DCED tiene información sobre el proceso de solicitud. Las becas están supeditadas a la disponibilidad de fondos.

Información adicional está disponible en el sitio web de nuestro distrito escolar <https://www.wbasd.k12.pa.us/OSTCP.aspx> y el El sitio web del Departamento de Educación de Pensilvania <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/programs-and-services/schools/school-services/opportunity-scholarship-tax-credit-program.html>.

Sinceramente

Marlena Nockley  
Director de la Escuela Intermedia GAR

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