

## **I. Purpose of The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund**

The purpose of The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund is to receive and distribute Pre-Kindergarten Tax Credit (PKTC) funds in accordance with the program guidelines for Scholarship Organizations set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

## **II. Policies and Guidelines of The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund**

The Scholarship Program is intended to provide tuition (including fees charged by a school) to eligible students to attend a pre-kindergarten program at a school located in Central Pennsylvania. The amount of a scholarship paid to or on behalf of a student may not exceed the actual amount of tuition charged by the school in which the student is enrolled, nor exceed the actual amount of tuition charged to the school to non-scholarship students.

### *School Description and Eligibility:*

A school includes any nonpublic kindergarten, elementary or secondary school at which the compulsory attendance requirements of the Commonwealth may be met and which meets the applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

An Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) based Private licensed academic school includes any private school in Central Pennsylvania which employs as its primary therapeutic/educational modality the principles of Applied Behavior Analytic Therapy in a consistent, intensive (i.e. approximately 30-40 hours per week) manner, as generally outlined in the following studies: Strain, Hoyson & Janieson, 1985; Young, Krantz, McClannahan & Poulson, 1994; Pierce & Schreibman, 1994; Taylor & Harris, 1995; Lovaas, 1987; McEachin et al., 1993; Anderson et al., 1987

### *Student Description and Eligibility:*

An "eligible student" is a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who is at least three years of age through the earliest admission age for the student's "home" public school district kindergarten program (or if the student's "home" public school district has no kindergarten program, the earliest age at which the student may begin school) in said district, who is enrolled an ABA-based private school for individuals with autism located in the Central Pennsylvania and who is a member of a "household" with an annual household income of not more than \$50,000, except that an additional income allowance of \$10,000 is permitted for the student and for each dependant living within the same household.

### *Household Description and Eligibility:*

A household includes an individual living alone or an individual living with the following: a spouse, parent and their unemancipated minor children; other unemancipated minor children who are related by blood or marriage; other adults or unemancipated minor children living in the household who are dependant upon the individual.

In calculating household income for the purposes of determining student eligibility, all moneys and property received of whatever nature and from whatever source are to be included, except for

the following; periodic payment for sickness and disability other than regular wages received during a period of sickness or disability; Disability, retirement or other payments arising under workers' compensation acts, occupational disease acts and similar legislation by any government; Payments commonly recognized as old age or retirement benefits paid to persons retired from service after reaching a specific age or after a stated period of employment; Payments commonly known as public assistance or unemployment compensation payments by a governmental agency; Payments to reimburse actual expenses, Payments made to employers or labor unions for programs covering hospitalization, sickness, disability or death, supplemental unemployment benefits, strike benefits, social security and retirement; Compensation received by United States servicemen serving in a combat zone.

### *The Award of Scholarships*

The award of scholarships under The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Program will be made without limiting availability to only students of The Vista School.

### **III. Application and Review Process for Funding Individual Scholarships**

An eligible student of school age student that is a resident of Pennsylvania, who is enrolled in a school located in this Commonwealth and who is a member of a household with an annual household income of not more than \$50,000.00, except that an additional income allowance of \$10,000 is permitted for the student and for each other dependent living within the same household. "School age" ranges from the earliest admission age for a school's kindergarten program) or if the school has no kindergarten program, the earliest age at which the student may begin school), through the age attained upon graduation from secondary school or 21 years of age, whichever occurs first.

A household includes an individual living alone or an individual living with the following: a spouse, parent and their unemancipated minor children; other unemancipated minor children who are related by blood or marriage; other adults or unemancipated minor children living in the household who are dependant upon the individual.

Scholarship awards are based on demonstrated need. The eligibility for scholarships is based on a needs analysis of the information concerning taxable income, assets and expenses indicated on a standard application form. A copy of the latest year's tax return must be included with the application for income verification purposes. The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund Administrative Committee will analyze financial statements provided by the family to verify eligibility.

Since the determination of the scholarship award is based on the analysis of the information submitted concerning the family's ability to pay school fees, it is important to have current and accurate information about family income and assets. This information will be kept by The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Administration Committee in strictest confidence and will be returned upon request of the applicant. If parents are separated or divorced, it is important that both parties submit a financial statement.

In calculating household income for the purposes of determining student eligibility, all moneys and property received of whatever nature and from whatever source are to be included, except for the following as set forth in Pennsylvania DCED Education Improvement Tax Credit Program Guidelines; periodic payment for sickness and disability other than regular wages received during a period of sickness or disability; Disability, retirement or other payments arising under workers'

compensation acts, occupational disease acts and similar legislation by any government; Payments commonly recognized as old age or retirement benefits paid to persons retired from service after reaching a specific age or after a stated period of employment; Payments commonly known as public assistance or unemployment compensation payments by a governmental agency; Payments to reimburse actual expenses, Payments made to employers or labor unions for programs covering hospitalization, sickness, disability or death, supplemental unemployment benefits, strike benefits, social security and retirement; Compensation received by United States servicemen serving in a combat zone.

Application forms are available after March 1. Federal Income Tax returns (Form 1040) must be submitted by April 17. Applications for Scholarship are processed in April for the following academic year; decisions will be announced by May 30. No consideration will be given for financial aid if records from both parents are not submitted. No consideration will be given for financial aid if published deadlines are missed.

Rebates or refunds of scholarship moneys for students who withdraw from a school prior to the end of the period for which tuition has been paid will follow Refund Policies as approved by The Board of Directors or governing body of the school at which the child was enrolled.

The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund will maintain full and accurate records with respect to the receipt of contributions from businesses and expenditure of those contributions. These records shall be maintained for a period of not less than three years.

The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund Administrative Committee will review all completed applications which have met all applicable deadlines, guidelines and information standards after April 17 and The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund Administrative Committee will render and announce decisions by May 30 of each year the fund operates.

### **Application Requirements and Deadlines**

1. Please include a copy of both parents and/or guardians IRS 1040 forms by April 17.
2. Applications to The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund will be made available after March 1 of each school year.
3. Decisions will be announced by May 30.
4. No consideration will be given for financial aid if records from both parents are not submitted.
5. No consideration will be given for financial aid if published deadlines are missed.
6. The award of scholarships under The Vista School Scholarship Program will be made without limiting availability to only students of The Vista School.
7. Rebates or refunds of scholarship moneys for students who withdraw from a school prior to the end of the period for which tuition has been paid will follow Refund Policies as approved by The Board of Directors or governing body of the school at which the child was enrolled.

I acknowledge that all the information provided in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**The Vista School  
1249 Cocoa Avenue  
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033**

**The Vista School Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Fund Application**

(Please print or type)

Name of Student (first, middle initial, last):			
Date of Birth:			
SS#			
Address:			
Street:		City:	
County:		State:	
Zip Code:		Phone:	
School Student is currently enrolled:			
Address:			
Street:		City:	
County:		State:	
Zip Code:		Phone:	
Name of Parent or Guardian (1) (first, m.i., last):			
Address:			
Street:		City:	
County:		State:	
Zip Code:		Home Phone:	
SS#		Bus. Phone	
Name of Parent or Guardian (2) (first, m.i., last):			
Address:			
Street:		City:	
County:		State:	
Zip Code:		Home Phone:	
SS#		Bus. Phone:	
Preparer of Application (if not Parent/Guardian):			
Address:			
Street:		City:	
County:		State:	
Zip Code:		Phone:	
Relationship to applicant:			
Parent or Guardian (1) Employer:			
Address:			
Street:		City:	
County:		State:	
Zip Code:		Phone:	
Supervisor:			
Parent or Guardian (2) Employer:			
Address:			
Street:		City:	
County:		State:	
Zip Code:		Phone:	
Supervisor:			

**The Vista School  
1249 Cocoa Avenue  
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033**

Household Members (please mark if claimed as dependent on your tax forms):			
Name:		Age:	
Name:		Age:	
Name:		Age:	
Name:		Age:	
Name:		Age:	
Name:		Age:	
Name:		Age:	
Annual Household Income:			
Parent or Guardian (1):			
Parent or Guardian (2):			
Other Income:			