The list below constitutes frequently asked questions about the BOOST Scholarship Program. This page will be updated with frequently asked questions and answers on a continual basis.

1. **Question: I did not work in 2023. Or, I receive SSI benefits. Or, my only income is child support. Do I still need to upload a 2023 Federal 1040 Tax form?**

   Answer: The BOOST Program only accepts the Federal 1040 Tax form to determine an applicant's household size and household income. So, yes, all applicants are required to complete a 2023 Federal 1040 Tax form with their taxable income and upload it to their online application. Some SSI benefits are taxable, and some are not. Here is some guidance from the IRS on SSI benefits. When in doubt, please consult a tax professional.

2. **Question:** Can you provide some resources for completing the Federal 1040 Tax Form?

   Answer: Sure! Below are some helpful resources:

   - Free File Fillable Forms and Guided Tax Software
   - IRS Tax Tips
   - IRS Customer Service
   - Visit 211 Maryland for services in Maryland
   - Reach out to your tax professional for advice

3. **Question: I'm still not sure how to fill out the 2023 Federal 1040 Tax form. What should I do?**

   Answer: Please consult with a tax professional or review the guidance from the IRS. We cannot provide tax advice.

4. **Question: I have not filed my Federal 1040 tax forms yet for 2023. Can I upload taxes from 2022 or my W-2?**

   Answer: No, your application will be incomplete and will be declined. Do not submit your application until you have the correct documentation.

5. **Question: Can I just update my 2023-2024 application for the 2024-2025 school year?**

   Answer: No, these are two different applications. To be considered for an award, you must complete the newest application for the 2024-2025 school year. Here is a link to the application.

6. **Question: My child will attend a different school in the Fall. What do I do?**

   Answer: On your 2024-2025 application, select the school that your child will attend in the Fall 2024. If you need to change the school, let us know and we'll open your application for you to edit it.

7. **Question: Are applications awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis?**

   Answer: No. Applications are reviewed for eligibility and priority. You have until May 3, 2024 to apply.

8. **When will parents be notified if they are receiving an award?**

   Answer: Applicants will be notified by August 2024 of their award status.

9. Question: Will new applicants get an award?

Answer: We won't know the priorities until the budget bill is passed in April 2024 and the BOOST Advisory Board meets in Summer 2024. So far, the draft bill provides for $9 million in scholarships (the same as last year) and prioritizes renewals (the same as last year).

10. Question: How many families applied last year who were new versus renewals? How many students were awarded during the 2023-2024 school year?

Answer: Please review the Joint Chairman's Report BOOST January 2024 (see page 4) for the 2023-2024 school year. To view reports from previous school years, look under reports on the left-hand side of the BOOST webpage.

11. Question: Are there any other programs that offer tuition assistance?

Answer: Currently, BOOST is the only state-sponsored scholarship program. Some private schools offer discounts or financial aid based on family income or student merit. The school may have information on private scholarships.

Beyond 12th grade, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) offers scholarships and financial aid.