

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As a parent or guardian of a child, you probably have many reasons for choosing a Catholic education; but no doubt your child's bright future is one of them. You make sacrifices on many levels to exercise your right to choose the education that is best for your child.

In the next few months, the Pennsylvania Legislature will consider an exciting education reform proposal that can help put a brighter future in the hands of many more students and in turn will benefit our Catholic schools. The Opportunity Scholarship Act – Senate Bill 1 proposes a significant increase to the Education Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. If passed, it will make \$100 million in EITC scholarships available to qualified students. It also proposes vouchers for the poorest students in chronically failing schools. Parents can use the voucher to pay tuition at any school they choose, including a Catholic school if they wish. Because of the fiscal constraints on the state budget, the voucher program starts small. In the first year, only low-income students currently attending a failing public school qualify. Eligibility will be expanded in the second and third years. Eventually every low-income student will be eligible. The increase in the EITC program will grant more scholarships to qualified families who are not included in the voucher program right away.

Senate Bill 1 has the potential to greatly benefit Catholic education. Not every qualified student will choose a Catholic school, but it is likely that many will. We already know how the EITC has helped our schools; SB 1 will allow even more families a chance to get a Catholic education. More students in our classrooms is good news for our schools; more students will help us keep our schools open. School choice is also good news for Pennsylvania. School choice saves tax dollars because non-public schools often provide an excellent education for a fraction of the cost of public schools. School choice works; programs in Wisconsin, Ohio, and other states have had successful voucher programs for years. Pennsylvania will be successful too. The time is right to pass school choice now. Parents want it and the public supports it. But to make school choice a reality for everyone, we need your help NOW! Involvement by our parents and guardians will be critical to the success of school choice. By getting involved, you can make it happen.

- Watch for updates from your school principal about the progress of the school choice proposal.
- Act on action alerts by contacting your state legislator and voicing your support.
- Spread the word to your friends, family and colleagues since even citizens who do not have children in school should care about Pennsylvania's future.
- Join the Advocates for Catholic Education in Pennsylvania (ACE-PA)

The Advocates for Catholic Education in Pennsylvania or ACE-PA is an extensive network of concerned parents, educators, board members, alumni and taxpayers who will speak with one loud voice on behalf of Catholic school students before the governor, the state legislature and beyond. Sign-up At [www.pacatholic.org/current-issues/ace-pa](http://www.pacatholic.org/current-issues/ace-pa) and learn more about what you can do to help.

No one who desires a Catholic education for their child should be left out. It is our time in history to be able to receive our share of our tax dollars to educate our sons and daughters as we so choose. Please make sure your voice is heard. Support the actions necessary to pass this bill and make a brighter future for all children in Pennsylvania!



Advocates for Catholic Education  
in Pennsylvania