

School Choice: The Right Choice for Pennsylvania's Taxpayers

Providing a quality education for our children is the most critical investment we can make for our future. Pennsylvania needs a more effective and less costly way to educate our children. School choice legislation that includes both a voucher program and an increase in EITC scholarship funds is the right choice for Pennsylvania's future.

School choice saves tax dollars

With school choice; parents have wider options for educating their children. Most will remain in public schools, but a significant number will choose to enroll or remain enrolled in non-public schools. With fewer students in public school, some of the financial pressure will be lessened on state and local budgets.

- *School choice slows the increase of education costs*
- *Smaller class size = more individualized attention for students*
- *Fewer public school students = lower instructional cost, less need for new construction*
- *Some funding is based on enrollment, but many federal, state and local programs are not – with school choice these public school dollars can go much farther*

Non-public schools provide an excellent education, often for a fraction of the cost of educating the same student in a public school.

- *Average annual public school spending per pupil is **\$13,907** (2008-2009); the base cost of the state's subsidy per pupil is **\$8,950**.*
- *Average non-public school tuition is **\$3,500** (elementary) and **\$6,500** (high school).*
- *Vouchers will not exceed actual tuition paid; the difference between the scholarship amount and the base cost of the state subsidy will be returned to the state coffers.*
- *By allowing some students to be educated in less costly nonpublic schools, school choice will offset the need for future tax increases or state budget cuts.*

Non-public schools already save tax dollars. If every nonpublic school student returned to public school, the costs would be unbearable.

- *In 2010-2011, **44,000** students received school choice scholarships through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC). If those students return to public school, it will cost the taxpayers of Pennsylvania **over \$600,000,000 each year!***
- *If every one of Pennsylvania's **287,092** nonpublic school students returned to public school, the costs would be significant – $287,092 \times \$13,907 =$ **\$3.9 billion** annually (not counting the costs of new construction).*

School choice legislation that includes both a voucher program and an increase in EITC scholarship funds makes good educational sense and can be part of a fiscally responsible state budgetary strategy.