



## *HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC SCHOOL*

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Dear representatives of the great state of Kansas,

I want to express my most sincere gratitude for those that have championed tax credit scholarship legislation. Due to your bold efforts we are able to serve our community in a uniquely consequential manner. The benefit of school choice is undeniable.

When we found out last year that some of the local schools had been removed from the list of 100 schools that determine the boundaries for students to qualify to receive tax credit scholarships for low-income students, it was extremely disheartening. We had parents who could no longer afford our school. Those families had to endure the tremendous difficulty of a change in schools and the worrying prospect of their child(ren) being in a school that was unable to meet their child(ren)'s needs in a multitude of ways. Many of our parents are transient due to living arrangements. One or both parents may travel to Mexico or other parts of the country for work, leaving their child(ren) with relatives in different local zip codes. In addition to the upheaval of their parents leaving them, these children are many times forced to move to new schools due to boundary restrictions of school districts. This is unnecessarily traumatic.

Many parents choose to send their child(ren) to a private school so they do not have to worry about the arbitrary boundary restrictions limiting their ability to choose an academic setting that can make a dramatic impact in the trajectory of their child(ren)'s lives. Approximately 99% of Holy Family students go on to graduate high school. The surrounding schools are nowhere near that number. Our students are always so grateful and aware of the role that school choice has made in their prospects for success. There are many statistics I could cite supporting the difference these scholarships make in our community. More important, though, are the tacit differences. There are many children who come from extraordinarily difficult and chaotic homes that get almost all of their physical needs met by our school community. Even more powerful, many days it is likely the only place they see and experience selfless love, genuine faith, and sanctuary from unstable or undependable adults and one on one attention to their spiritual and emotional needs.

There have been many children this year to whom we have been able to award these scholarships, yet there are just as many students who don't qualify for these tax credit scholarships. We need to expand this legislation to bring stability to those families who want to live and work in our communities. But there is little stability in legislation that requires eligibility that seems to change every year. Knowing that their child(ren) will get

an excellent and stable education regardless of the consequences of their financial disposition is immeasurable. Many of our families can barely pay their bills, much less afford to send their children to one of our outstanding schools. Inequity of opportunity due to financial disadvantage should not limit school choice. Please act to expand the tax credit scholarship legislation to make it fair for all low-income families. We are forever grateful for your commitment to this important scholarship program that allows our students the opportunity to attend our school that is an anchor in our community. It is truly making a difference every day in the lives of these beautiful families. Please consider these “in the trenches” realities when considering this legislation.

With eternal gratitude,

Nick Anderson  
Principal, Holy Family Catholic School