



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Mailing Address
POST OFFICE BOX F
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
18105-1538

4029 WEST TILGHMAN STREET
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18104
(610) 437-0755
Fax (610) 433-7822

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Dear SJVRS Families and Supporters,

Pennsylvania is on the cusp of a significant era for Catholic education. The new legislative session brings the bright promise of meaningful education reform. Please sign up for each of these important services today, and circulate this request to everyone you can within our Catholic community so that they may have the opportunity to subscribe to these important services.

It is essential that the entire Catholic community work together to make school choice a reality in Pennsylvania. I am asking for your cooperation and participation in a statewide effort to advance the OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ACT that benefits Catholic schools, including those in the Diocese of Allentown.

Success in getting school vouchers in Pennsylvania will hinge on a groundswell of local support. To organize and harness this support, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) launched the Advocates for Catholic Education in Pennsylvania or ACE-PA. This extensive network of concerned parents, educators, board members, alumni and taxpayers will speak with one loud voice on behalf of Catholic school students before the governor, the state legislature and beyond.

ACE-PA advocates receive the latest news and information about the issues; resources for how to visit, call, e-mail or write our elected officials; and the first alert when contacting them can make a difference. It is simple, free and easy to sign up. Just go to www.pacatholic.org/ace-pa.

Please help us promote school choice and the ACE-PA in your parish and school communities. The next few months will be critical to the success of this legislation. I invite you to watch for information in your parish bulletin and in school communications and respond to the calls for action. Please give your time and attention to the school choice issue as it develops.

All parents should be able to choose a school that provides the kind of education they want for their children. The Opportunity Scholarship Grant program and an expansion of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program is a step in the right direction toward expanding educational opportunities to more families in Pennsylvania. Join ACE-PA at www.pacatholic.org/ace-pa and let your voice be heard in Harrisburg.

Grateful for your assistance in bringing this matter to our legislators, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Allentown