

School Choice Legislation

School choice legislation and how it could help you!

St. Joseph School is planning to participate in the school choice scholarship (voucher) program for the 2011-2012 school year. We are still waiting to hear details from the Indiana Department of Education about the program, but we hope to have all the necessary information around the beginning of July. If you have any questions, please contact Melba Wilderman, at 963-3273 or mwilderman@evdio.org. We will be happy to help you with this process.

Here is how this legislation affects you:

If you currently have children in a non-public school:

you can claim a \$1000 state tax deduction for each child in a non-public school regardless of your income level.

If you currently have children in a public school:

Based on your income level, you might be eligible for the school choice scholarship (voucher) program or the scholarship tax credit program.

Here is information on qualifying for the school choice scholarship (voucher) program:

- The student must have been enrolled in an Indiana public school for the previous two semesters not including kindergarten or have received a scholarship tax credit program or a voucher in the previous school year.
- Families whose household incomes fall below the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines are eligible to receive a voucher for 90% or the state tuition support. This income would be about \$40,000 for a family of four. This scholarship amount would be approximately \$5000.
- Families whose household incomes fall below 150% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines are eligible to receive a voucher for 50% or the state tuition support. This income would be about \$60,000 for a family of four. This scholarship amount would be approximately \$3000.
- The scholarship amount will be the lesser of tuition and fees or the voucher. The cap for grades 1-8 is \$4,500.
- The state cap for the number of vouchers given is 7500 in 2011-2012, 15,000 in 2012-2013, and unlimited in 2013-2014.
- Interested individuals should contact the school for more information.

Here is information on qualifying for the scholarship tax credit program:

- The student must have been enrolled in an Indiana public school for the previous two semesters or be entering kindergarten.
- In the Evansville area, families whose household incomes fall below 175% of the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines are eligible to receive a scholarship from this program. This income would be about \$70,000 for a family of four.
- Interested individuals should contact the school for more information.