

HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES HAVE QUESTIONS ...

We have answers ...



Let Kids Learn

Q: WHAT IS LET MI KIDS LEARN?

A: This is a citizen campaign. There are two ways to change law in Michigan (or change policy). One of those ways is through citizen petition initiatives: you collect a certain number of signatures, then they are presented to the Michigan Secretary of State and upon approval she presents to the Michigan Legislature and they are able to vote a citizen petition into law.

This campaign, if successful, will:

- Set up scholarship opportunities for children to aid with educational expenses including but not limited to tuition (for co-ops, online courses, and academic enrichment)
- Set up tax credit opportunities for individuals and businesses that wish to contribute to these educational scholarship funds.

Q: WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

A: Scholarship money does not come from the government. The money in the scholarship funds will come from private donors, not the government (or public dollars).

Individuals and corporations who have a MI income tax liability can choose to direct that liability to a 3rd Party non-profit granting organization. They receive a 100% tax credit for their donation. So instead of paying Treasury, they pay the granting organization. But they still pay!

Then granting organizations work with families that apply for the accounts/scholarships to distribute the funds in the form of an Education Savings Account (think HSA/FSA functionality).

Q: HOW DO FAMILIES OBTAIN THE MONEY?

A: Families can apply for the scholarships and then direct the resources where their child needs them.

If this goes into play, it will not require additional state testing, or allow any added government interference or intrusion with families or the educators they choose to work with.

The families then have control over where to go for the educational services their child(ren) need.

Q: WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A: Eligibility is every special needs student and foster child in the state, every student living below 200% of the free-reduced-lunch level; and any student up to 200% of the free-reduced-lunch level.

This program will be available to more than 1 million K-12 students in Michigan.

Q: HOW MUCH COULD HOME SCHOOL FAMILIES BENEFIT?

A: Homeschool families can choose to participate and receive around \$8,000 per student for their educational expenses.

Because the funds come from a 3rd party, there is no government restrictions on how/when/what they teach their children, outside of any that may already exist in state law.

Q: WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY?

A: If your family has a child with a disability or a child in the foster-care system, or falls within the financial requirements (see below), then you are eligible to apply:

| Household Size | Annual Income |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 | \$64,454 |
| 3 | \$81,252 |
| 4 | \$98,050 |
| 5 | \$114,848 |
| 6 | \$131,646 |
| 7 | \$148,444 |
| 8 | \$165,242 |
| 9 | \$182,040 |

in layman terms, take the above chart: if a family of 6 that has annual income of around \$131,000, their children would be applicable to pursue this scholarship.



Q: WHAT COULD YOU APPLY FOR?

A: The scholarship funds can be utilized for a number of things including, but not limited to:

- You could apply for resources to cover the expenses of your Co-op fees
- Classes, tutoring, technology, or materials
- You could apply for scholarships for your curriculum, online classes, technology needs
- You could apply for extra tutoring
- Your child with special needs could apply for special classes or therapies

Q: WILL THE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATION HAVE AN INFLUENCE ON WHETHER I CAN USE RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES?

A: No. It is entirely up to the parent. 1st amendment and explicit protection in law, program is driven by parent demand, who have a neutral choice based on religion

Q: ONLY THE POOREST HOUSEHOLDS BENEFIT?

A: Financial income is only **one of the variants that can determine eligibility.**

No matter the income level, if a family has a foster child - they automatically qualify, and the house-hold siblings of the foster child.

Also, if a child is classified as special needs, they automatically qualify as well as the house-hold siblings of this child.

Q: WILL THIS MEAN EXTRA TAXES?

A: No.

Q: IS THIS AN EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT?

A: No. The Student Opportunity Accounts include the option to be used for tuition dollars, but it is granted to families as an Education Savings Account because a voucher is direct government funding to a private school and these accounts go to families to pay the school/provider of their choosing.

Q: HOW SOON CAN I APPLY?

A: 2023

Q: CAN MY TAX CREDIT GO TOWARD MY GRANDCHILD?

A: You cannot direct your donation to your own child.

Q: WHAT WOULD MAKE SOMEONE WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

A: If this is successful, donations will be strongly encouraged by providing a full tax credit to generous individuals and businesses who choose to allot some of their tax dollars to these scholarship funds instead

Q: BUT THIS WILL MEAN MORE GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE - RIGHT?

A: No. You won't have extra testing. You won't have anyone checking into your homes. You won't have extra scrutiny should you choose to use it.

Q: IF MY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IS LOOKING TO TAKE COLLEGE COURSES, COULD SCHOLARSHIP MONEY GO TOWARD THIS?

A: If the student hasn't graduated and is taking the courses under a recognized dual enrollment program, yes.

Q: WILL I HAVE TO REPORT TO THE GRANTING ORGANIZATION HOW I USE THE MONEY?

A: Scholarship organization will see what they purchase, but no state reporting will include specific recipients linked to what they purchase

Q: MY FAMILY WILL COVER OUR OWN EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES. WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT THIS?

A: Regardless of personal family decisions, this program will benefit many other families and help to shift power away from the education bureaucracy.

Many families in lower-income and working-class communities would like more ability to provide their children with alternatives, though they currently lack the means to make it happen.

- These scholarship funds could aid in the expense of transportation, allowing a kid who lives in one zip code to be provided the chance to go to a safer or better school in a different zip code
- They could provide additional tutoring for students who choose to stay in public school but need extra help catching up
- For some families who cannot afford private education and do not have the ability to home school, it could cover a large part of their tuition.

Q: IF THIS IS BASED SOLELY ON PRIVATE DONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS, WHY IS A PETITION NEEDED? WHY IS THIS NOT JUST BEING CREATED AS A NON PROFIT/PRIVATE FOUNDATION?

A: State legislation is needed to create a tax incentive (credit) that will encourage private donations.

More than 20 states have similar kinds of scholarship tax credit programs.

Q: WHAT IS THE TIMELINE AND PROCESS FOR APPROVING THIS?

A: The Let MI Kids Learn campaign has until the second weekend of May to collect the 500,000 signatures needed to put this before the MI Legislature who can then pass these into effect without ever having to have your Governor's signature (or veto!).

Q: ARE THESE PROPOSED TO BE FUNDED THROUGH A REAPPORTIONMENT OF EXISTING TAX REVENUES AND SOURCES ?

A: There will be no redirection of school aid funds.

It will be funded through individual and corporate income tax donations.

Q: WHO RUNS THE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS (OR APPROVES THE SCHOLARSHIPS TO FAMILIES)

A: Each of the non profit 501c(3) entities that become granting organizations manage their own funds.

In order to be an SGO, they must meet the requirements with the IRS.

Q: DOES THIS HURT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL?

A: Children who choose to stay in public school will have all the funding they need.

The argument can be made that this will actually:

- Help the teachers who are overwhelmed, should students choose to stay in the public school setting and simply apply for extra tutoring help on the outside
- Influence the atmospheres of the classroom for the better as students who seek out help - will come back to the environment extra confident to engage
- And in some situations should the families choose to remove their kids from teh public school, the way this application process works is some dollars will still remain in the school and can be dispersed throughout

Q: WHERE DO CREDITS COME FROM?

A: Credits are given to taxpayers who make the donation from their income tax liability.

Q: WOULD THESE INITIATIVES TAKE ANY FUNDING CURRENTLY DIRECTED TOWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ALLOW THEM TO BE REDIRECTED TO A PARENT'S PRIVATE SCHOOL OF CHOICE OR EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH HOME SCHOOLING?

A: Yes but they would also be available for any student that stays in public schools to have supplemental supports for their education.

Q: HOW WOULD THE SUCCESSFUL PASSAGE OF THIS INITIATIVE IMPACT THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS?

A: There would be no impact whatsoever. No government funds would be going to these schools. There would be no reason their tax status would change at all.

Additionally, 30 states plus the District of Columbia have private school choice programs and participating schools in those states have not had an impact to their tax status.

It's also fair to say that the scholarships are not funded by taking money out of the school aid fund. Yes, some of the income tax goes into the school aid fund, so if somebody pays less income tax because of the tax credit, a little less will go into the fund. But as some students switch to private schools, the per-pupil amount available in the school aid fund will rapidly go up.

Q: HOW DO I KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY I AM ALLOTTED?

A: Much rides on how the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) sets up their reporting. It could work a few different ways.

You will apply for the full amount you are eligible for (vs applying for each expense). And then it has to be spent on k-12 education expenses including dual enrollment costs.

Q: IS THIS VOUCHERS?

A: NO! This is not vouchers. Vouchers are with the use of public dollars. This initiative is completely different, strictly utilizing private dollars from generous individuals and businesses.



Q: WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING MONEY?

A: Money goes from the SGO to the family and they pay the vendors. However, it has to be approved education providers.

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In order to be an SGO, they must meet the requirements with the IRS.

Each state that employs this opportunity could have a number of granting organizations. You choose where and to whom you want to receive money from.

Q: IF I SIGN IT, IS IT OKAY TO NOT USE IT?

A: By signing these petitions you are not locked in to ever utilizing it. But you are giving *opportunity to families who have no other choice and need extra resources to get a better education.*

Q: HOW CAN I HELP?

A: Please sign the petition. Signing up for information & updates at www.letmikiidslern.com

FAMILIES DIRECT THE FUNDS, NOT MICHIGAN EDUCATION BUREAUCRACY.