

PLEASE THANK YOUR LEGISLATORS!!

On May 6th, the PA Senate passed a budget calling for the EITC program to be reduced by \$35 million. Of this \$35 million reduction, \$11.7 million from some combination of the k-12 scholarships and pre-k scholarships.

A reduction in EITC funding could jeopardize your child's scholarship.

Please contact your legislator to express your concern over these reductions.

Some suggested talking points include:

- Thanks to your leadership, {insert number} children in our family are participating in the EITC program at {insert school}.
- Our child(ren) now has/have a chance to succeed in an environment that we/I choose.
- Without the help of an EITC scholarship, our family would not be able to afford to attend the school of our choice.
- Cutting funding to this important program could cost my child a scholarship and a chance at a successful educational future.

SAMPLE LETTER

As a parent with a child attending a school of my choice thanks to and Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) scholarship, I am writing to you today to ask that you keep the EITC program's funding at its current level of \$75 million in the 2009-2010 state budget.

The budget passed by the Pennsylvania Senate on May 6th called for the EITC program to be reduced by \$35 million. Of this \$35 million reduction, \$23.3 million will come from the elimination of the innovative educational programs for public schools (EIOs) and the remaining \$11.7 million from some combination of the k-12 scholarships and pre-k scholarships.

A reduction in EITC funding could jeopardize my child's scholarship and will force thousands of students back into a school that will not give them a chance at a successful education. In addition, tens of thousands of worthwhile educational programs in our public schools will be significantly impacted with the loss of EITC funding.

What's more, cutting funding for the EITC program makes bad economic sense for Pennsylvania. Reducing the number of scholarships available to families and innovative educational programs in our public schools – all of which are paid for by businesses who claim the tax credits – will ultimately lead to increased costs to state and local governments.

I know that these difficult economic times are forcing businesses, families, and even you in the legislature to make difficult budgetary decisions. Please don't force me to have to make the decision to put my child back into a school that does not work for them because we will not be getting an EITC scholarship next year.

Please keep EITC fully funded at \$75 million in the 2009-2010 state budget. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this important request.