

HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES HAVE QUESTIONS ...

We have answers ...



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: WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A: Eligibility is automatically - regardless of financial status - given to every special needs student and foster child in the state, as well as the *siblings in their household*, should their families wish to apply.

In addition, every student that is currently living in homes that meet the financial requirements. Also known as, those currently living below 200% of the free-reduced-lunch level; and any student up to 200% of the free-reduced-lunch level.

Families that apply could:

- Continue using the public school, just need a little more outside help
- Choose a different school a little ways away but need help with transportation
- Opt to vacate the public education option and seek tuition help for private or classical schools
- Receive support for costs associated with homeschooling

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

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 third party non-profit granting organization (also referred to as Scholarship Granting Organization or SGO). 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.

Q: IS THIS AN EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT?

A: Yes. It is an ESA that's funded by tax credit donations rather than state dollars.

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

Take the above chart: If a family of 6 has an annual income of around \$130,000 or less, their children would be eligible for scholarship funds.



Q: WHAT COULD HOME SCHOOL FAMILIES APPLY FOR?

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

- Resources to cover the expenses of your Co-op fees
- Classes, tutoring, or materials
- Curriculum, online classes, technology needs
- Extra or private, specialized tutoring

In addition, 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.

The first amendment and explicit protection in law cover you. This program is driven by parent demand, who have a neutral choice based on religion.

Q: IS THIS VOUCHERS?

A: NO! This is not vouchers.

Vouchers use public dollars. This initiative strictly uses private dollars from generous individuals and businesses.

Q: WILL THIS MEAN EXTRA TAXES?

A: No.

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

A: There will be no state reporting.

Based on the private Scholarship Granting Organization guidelines, they will see what is purchased (tuition, materials, classes etc), but no state reporting will include specific recipients linked to what you purchase.

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

A: No. You don't have to sign up for this scholarship opportunity. But if you do, 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: HOW SOON CAN I APPLY?

A: 2023

Q: HOW MUCH COULD HOME SCHOOL FAMILIES BENEFIT?

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

This results in approximately 90% of the public school per pupil allowance.

Because the funds come from a third 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: 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" with "Many lower-income and working-class families"

- 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 desire private education but can't afford it, a scholarship could cover most or all of their tuition.

Q: WOULD I BE REQUIRED TO "USE MASKS" IN MY CO-OP OR HOME SCHOOL IF I TAKE PART IN THIS?

A: A thousand times no.

This is not tied to public or government monies. It is you the parent choosing where the money should go and how it is used. YOU know what is best for your child. You choose how they should be protected and guided and taught.

Q: COULD SCHOLARSHIP MONEY GO TOWARD COLLEGE COURSES?

A: If the student has not yet graduated from high school and is taking the courses under a recognized dual enrollment program, then yes.

Q: IF I SIGN THE PETITION, IS IT OK 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: IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY CHILDREN IN OUR HOUSEHOLD CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS?

A: There are no limits in the law. Scholarship organizations would have discretion how to deal with that within parameters of law.

In other words, it might depend on what SGO you apply to for scholarships.

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. These SGOs must spend 90% of tax credit donations on scholarships, and are accountable to have their finances audited to help ensure they are accountable to families and donors.

Q: HOW DO FAMILIES OBTAIN THE MONEY?

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

Money goes from the SGO to the family and they use funds to pay the vendors. An SGO has to recognize and approve education providers.

The program 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: 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: The tax credits for scholarship donations that parents can direct to the educational needs of their child, are just a tiny portion that could have gone into the state's school aid fund.

The state's current projected Education revenue for next year is \$16.25 Billion (with a b).

The total amount of allowable tax credits equals less than 1% of the school aid fund budget.

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

A: This information will be disclosed in a Scholarship-Granting Organization's application process. No student can receive more tax-credit donations into their account than allowed by the caps in the law.

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 expense.

Q: WILL WE HAVE TO REAPPLY EVERY YEAR?

A: Parents don't have to reapply, but there are conditions under which a student loses access to account money, if the student graduates, the child's household income grows too large, or if a family is found to have committed fraud.

This will be - in part - tied to the guidelines of the SGO.

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, but most don't allow the flexible spending options available to homeschool and public school families in this plan.

Offering a private donor a tax credit is a stronger incentive than a deduction. The US Supreme Court has ruled these are not public tax funds.



Q: ONCE I APPLY, HOW SOON WILL WE KNOW IF WE WERE ACCEPTED?

A: This is not determined by law, but instead by the Scholarship Granting Organization.

Q: WHAT REVENUE SOURCES FUND THESE ACCOUNTS?

A: It will be funded through individual and corporate charitable contributions.

Q: DOES THIS HURT PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

A: Public schools will end up with more funding per student. Help teachers who are overwhelmed by providing extra help and support to families who receive scholarship support and choose to stay in public schools.

Q: WE ARE SO NERVOUS FOR MORE GOVERNMENT INTRUSION ...

A: We understand. We are as well. Which is why we have set this up to have every safeguard in place.

It should be noted that just as tax deductions (contributions to church or charity) are not public funds (i.e. not publicly disclosed) neither are the individual tax credit donations.

Q: WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

A: Please visit our website for additional handouts, talking points, and informational graphics.

On our website you can learn more about:

- How it works
- The funding
- Who can benefit

Email us with additional questions
info@letmikiidslearn.com

Q: HOW CAN I HELP?

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

**FAMILIES DIRECT THE FUNDS, NOT
MICHIGAN EDUCATION BUREAUCRACY.**