



THE BULLETIN BOARD

NEWSLETTER OF CITIZENS FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

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MISSION STATEMENT

Citizens for Educational Choice is the voice of nonpublic schools at the Louisiana Legislature. It represents the interests and concerns of nonpublic schools in legislative or policy matters that could impact the mission of those schools. It also seeks state budget appropriations for secular programs mandated or benefitting the education of children in private and parochial schools that are approved by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and are in compliance with Brumfield v. Dodd.



PARENTAL CHOICE IN EDUCATION TRIUMPHED AT 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION!

The popular and successful *Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program* in Orleans Parish was expanded statewide by the 2012 Legislature at the urging of Gov. Bobby Jindal (Act 2). Eligible students are those in public schools rated C, D or E as well as pre-K students who were already enrolled in the program and whose annual family incomes are less than \$57,000.



According to figures from the state, 5,600 students are currently enrolled in 119 private and parochial schools. Details about the program were reported in the May issue of *The Bulletin Board* which can be viewed at the CEC website www.louisianacec.org.

LEGISLATURE APPROVES ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATIONS

Another parental choice milestone was passage of a bill by Rep. Kirk Talbot establishing a rebate program for contributions to a school tuition organization (STO) that provides scholarships to eligible students to attend qualified nonpublic schools. To receive the rebates, contributors to these nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations must be taxpayers who file a Louisiana income tax return.



The law takes effect on Jan. 1, 2013 for making contributions, and scholarship awards begin with the 2013-14 school year.

An STO program in Florida began ten years ago and presently 27,000 students are receiving scholarships.

Rules for implementing Louisiana's program will be written this fall by the Louisiana Department of Education, and we will report on them in the next issue of *The Bulletin Board*.

More information on this new law (Act 25) is available at the legislature's website www.legis.state.la.us.

2012-13 STATE FUNDING INTACT FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS

State funding for nonpublic school programs for FY 2012-13 remains intact despite another difficult budget debate in the legislature. We thank everyone who responded to our *voterVOICE* alerts to contact their legislators for support. Following are the amounts that were appropriated:

\$ 14,292,704	Required Services
7,917,607	School Nutrition Salary Supplements
7,500,000	Pre-Kindergarten Program
8,900,000	Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program in Orleans Parish
3,031,805	Textbooks
1,883,373	Education Excellence Trust Funds
817,613	8g Programs
405,000	Scholarships for Students with Exceptionalities
<u>186,351</u>	Textbook Administration
\$ 44,934,453	SUBTOTAL

Value of State and Local Tax Exemptions	
\$ 17,700,000	Tuition Tax Deduction
2,400,000	Textbooks, Computers and A/Vs
<u>411,000</u>	School Nutrition Programs
\$ 20,511,000	SUBTOTAL

\$ 65,445,453 GRAND TOTAL



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2012-13 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF!

Enclosed with this newsletter are two 2012-13 membership cards, one for your school and another for your parent or booster organization. As we kick off our 46th year, we ask your continued support for the work we do to return tax dollars to parents of students in nonpublic schools. Thanks to all who supported us last year. A 2011-12 year-end roster is also enclosed. If you have already remitted your dues for this year please disregard the cards.

