



**Member Associations:**  
Agudath Israel-Mid-Atlantic Region  
American Montessori Society Schools of PA  
Association of Christian Schools International  
ACSI Northeast Region  
PA Catholic Conference  
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (OU)

## HOUSE Bill 800 (The EITC Program) Support Letter

April 26, 2019

Speaker of the House, Honorable Mike Turzai  
139 Main Capitol PO Box 202028  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2028

Representative Curt Sonney  
Education Committee Chairman  
214 Ryan Office Building  
PO Box 202004  
Harrisburg PA 17120-2004

Speaker Turzai, Chairman Sonney, and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives:

The Council for American Private Education in Pennsylvania (PACAPE) is writing to provide support for House Bill 800 and the expansion of the EITC Program with an escalator clause.

We stand together as a very diverse group of private school associations across the Commonwealth in support of this bill and any others that increase this program and provide for its continual expansion.

The EITC Program's mission has proven to be a success since its inception in 2001. The Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) has reported that there is currently over \$135 million in eligible business applications that were denied tax credits this year and were placed on a waiting list. This indicates there is widespread interest from the business community in expanding this program.

There are many more children who could benefit if this program were expanded. There are currently over 63,000 eligible students on the EITC waiting list and the average scholarship is only \$1,500.

The EITC scholarship program represents 0.03 percent of the Governor's proposed spending in education and, as such, represents such a very small portion of money that is designated to education in Pennsylvania.

As schools that see the benefit for students of this program firsthand, we can support not only additional funding but the idea that these funds should be increased automatically.

Best Regards,

PA Council for American Private Education

**Dr. D. Merle Skinner**, PA CAPE Co-Coordinator 724.455.2122 ext 103 [merle\\_skinner@champion.org](mailto:merle_skinner@champion.org)

**Sean McAleer**, PA CAPE Co-Coordinator, 717.514.1882 [smcaleer@pacatholic.org](mailto:smcaleer@pacatholic.org)