

I have been a teacher and administrator at Bishop Hartley High School for the past 38 years. Two of my responsibilities over the last 20 years have been to serve as financial officer of the school and assist in the Academic Preparation mission of the institution. And while we strive to keep our tuition affordable and within reach of all families hoping to send their children to Hartley, it has been a challenge for our low wealth stakeholders.

The EdChoice scholarship program has made it possible for young men and women who wish to attend Hartley to do just that. And while it has not been unanimous the vast majority of these recipients have taken to the structure and rigorous curriculum and have been wonderfully successful. Our work with these dedicated young people falls in line the Church's mission to the poor and marginalized.

I have personally witnessed these students fitting in and standing out at Bishop Hartley. Fitting in because they have accepted our shared goals of academic excellence, community building and service to others. They stand out not because of this program but rather by the character they develop and achievements they reach. It is my opinion that the proposed School choice bill would be a natural evolution of EdChoice. For families in poverty to have a voice in where their children are educated is empowering and will certainly be seen in their involvement and commitment necessary for their child's success. If achievement is measured in numbers our 100% graduation rate, the 14 million dollars in academic scholarships to institutions of Higher learning from 160 seniors and over 27,000 documented service hours from a school of 680 cannot be ignored. Thank you