



# Metro Catholic School

*Empowering Dreams for over 30 Years*

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May 3, 2021

Dear **Ohio Senate Finance Committee**,

I urge you to support the proposed amendments described below. For the "Fair School Funding" plan to be worthy of its authors' claim to be "fair to all students and fair to all taxpayers," it must include equitable support for nonpublic schools.

#### School Choice

Increase the scholarships amounts for K-8 students and students in grades 9-12 in the performance-based Ed Choice Scholarship Program, Ed Choice Expansion and the Cleveland Scholarship Program.

#### Auxiliary Services

Increase Auxiliary Services by 2.33 percent over the next biennium.

#### Nonpublic Administrative Cost

Increases Nonpublic Administrative Cost by 2.33 percent over the next biennium. Permits the reimbursements to be up to \$475 per student. This will ensure that the appropriation will be absorbed (number of students enrolled multiplied by cap).

#### School Transportation

Increase the payment in lieu of transportation from \$250 to the state average to transport students.

**For me the most important area is to see the K-8 Cleveland Scholarship Voucher increase from \$4650 to at least \$6,000.** Over the past few years our school has managed to hold our cost to educate to \$7500-\$8000 per child compared to CMSD's \$17,674 (source: District Profile report).

We are getting crushed and cannot keep this up much longer. Not the least of which, is competing with the wage gap that continues to grow between our teachers and their Public-school peers.

We must have action in this next budget. The \$4650 level has been in place for many years now with no change and must be increased or I fear many well run, solid performing private schools in Cleveland will fold over the next 5 years.

Sincerely,

Joe C. Prada  
Director of Advancement