

To: All House Members
From: Representative Jim Christiana
Date: June 6, 2012
Subject: EITC/EISC Program



In the coming days, I intend to introduce legislation that will phase in two components of a proposal to enhance school choice options - the successfully established EITC program and an Educational Improvement Scholarship Credit (EISC) program that is specifically aimed at rescuing students who are attending Pennsylvania's lowest performing schools. This new program will also be funded by tax-credited contributions made to designated opportunity scholarship organizations.

Some key elements of this legislation are as follows:

- The current EITC program will remain the same as proposed in HB1330 (Rep. Quigley). The second component will be called the Education Improvement Scholarship Credit (EISC).
- During the 2012-13 school/fiscal year, an additional \$100 million in tax credits would be authorized for contributions to educational opportunity scholarship organizations for the EISC program.
- During the 2013-14 school/fiscal year, tax credits for contributions to opportunity scholarship organizations would be authorized in the amount of \$150 million.
- During the 2014-15 school/fiscal year, while tax credits for contributions to opportunity scholarship organizations would be authorized in the amount of \$200 million.
- Must meet eligible income guidelines.
- The program would be limited to children residing within the attendance areas of the lowest-achieving 15% of public schools.
- Opportunity scholarships could be used at voluntarily-participating nonpublic schools and out-of-district public schools that decide to participate.
- The maximum amount of the per-child education opportunity scholarship would be capped at \$8,500 for students without disabilities and \$15,000 for students with disabilities.
- Opportunity scholarships could not exceed the amount of tuition and fees actually charged by the receiving school.
- The scholarship program would be funded entirely by contributions by business firms to opportunity scholarship organizations.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please contact Sandra Pancoe in my Harrisburg office at 717-260-6144 or sapancoe@pahousegop.com and add your name to the list of co-sponsors. Thank you.