



PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION of TEACHERS

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE HOUSE
FROM: JERRY T. JORDAN, PRESIDENT, PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
RE: PROPOSED \$100 MILLION EXPANSION OF EITC
APRIL 29, 2019

The PFT is unalterably opposed to any form of EITC (taxpayer funded school tuition voucher) expansion. It is unreasonable that the House would consider such an outrageous proposal, particularly at a time when students are literally getting poisoned in their school district operated public schools due to systemic disinvestment in their communities. Pennsylvania must refuse the expansion of taxpayer funded school tuition vouchers in every form and instead make real investments in our schoolchildren and their futures.

The PFT calls on the legislature to not only reject this proposal, but to get serious about their plan to move forward with an immediate investment to ensure that students are no longer poisoned in their places of learning.

EITC/OSTC Expansion:

- A \$100 Million increase in a program that has continued to expand, despite chronic and catastrophic underfunding of our public schools, is unacceptable and irrational.
- **This money is siphoned from public school district operated schools** without fiscal, operational, administrative or academic performance accountability, oversight or transparency.
- Schools receiving EITC funding, despite being paid with tax payer funds, may (and do) **refuse to enroll, or severely restrict enrollment of, students for virtually any reason**, including religious affiliation, disability, discipline or academic history.
- The administrative "scholarship organizations" created to administer and distribute the EITC/OSTC funds retain up to 20 percent of the (public/ taxpayer) money as for their own unsupervised private purposes as a so called "**administrative fee**" and are not required to report on or account for how they spend taxpayer funds. In comparison, Florida has a similar tax credit program with "scholarship organizations" limited to keeping no more than 3 percent of the money.
- Additionally, Pennsylvania's tax breaks for EITC/OSTC funding are so lucrative that **companies can actually EARN money through these "charitable" contributions**. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/17/us/politics/in-some-states-donating-to-private-schools-can-earn-you-a-profit.html>
- **The EITC/OSTC expansion must be soundly rejected.**

Contact: [Hillary Linardopoulos](mailto:hillaryL@pft.org) | hillaryL@pft.org | 215-587-6752