



# Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

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3/23/22

Dear Diocese of Saginaw Community,

The Michigan legislature passed two bills in the fall of 2021 which would have provided scholarships to low-income families for their out-of-pocket educational expenses. Donors to scholarship organizations would receive a state tax credit. The scholarship organization would in turn provide scholarships to qualifying public and non-public school students for tutoring, school supplies, computer, and tuition among other expenses. One bill created the scholarship system and the other created the tax credit. Governor Whitmer vetoed both measures.

A petition drive is now underway that would place the issue before the legislature, which if passed again, would not require the governor's signature to become law. With the support of the Catholic Bishops of Michigan, the Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) is supporting the Let MI Kids Learn (LMKL) petition drive to promote educational justice legislation. This effort is also supported by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS). Every Catholic school in the Diocese of Saginaw is a member of MANS.

The current petitions aim to enable Michigan children from low-income families to qualify for "Student Opportunity Scholarships" toward their out-of-pocket educational costs at public or nonpublic schools for tutoring, school supplies, computers, and tuition, among other expenses. Donors to scholarship organizations would receive a state tax credit. Low-income parishioners and members of your community would benefit from this initiated legislation, regardless of where they send their children to school.

Recently, most parishes and schools in the Diocese of Saginaw received petition packets. Parishes and schools are welcome to participate in any capacity they would like. The timing and level of participation will likely vary from location to location. I recognize that Lent is a very busy season for our pastors and parish staff. We have worked with LMKL to extend the original deadline to account for this. The deadline for submission of petitions is May 11, 2022.

If you are interested in supporting this process by collecting signatures, please contact your pastor or school administrator. Should you like to complete your own petition and/or gather signatures among friends and family members, please contact your Catholic school's office to obtain a petition ballot.

It should be noted that the petition packets were created by LMKL. It includes a cover letter from LMKL that may read as political in nature. The Bishops of Michigan, the MCC, and MANS are supporting this effort because it provides greater potential access to educational resources for Michigan children. The church itself is not a political body and any information that is viewed as partisan is not associated with, or endorsed by, the diocese or any of the Catholic organizations referenced in this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and its potential impact on the children of our state. As a courtesy, I have included additional information from the MCC on the proposal, as well as instructions for completing a petition form. The Mackinaw Center for Public Policy has created a policy primer document with more information that can be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Cormac Lynn

Superintendent of Schools

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# LET MI KIDS LEARN Petition Drive



**LET KIDS LEARN.  
EVERY STUDENT.  
EVERY BACKGROUND.  
EVERY COMMUNITY.**

Now is the time to support Michigan's low-income students (in both public and nonpublic schools), to give parents more control, and to provide additional educational opportunities. The **Michigan Catholic Conference, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Michigan**, supports this nonpartisan effort, which is why we can circulate the petitions in Catholic churches and schools.

## What The Proposal Does

- Creates "student opportunity scholarships" to low-income families for their out-of-pocket educational expenses. Scholarship Organizations would provide funds to qualifying public and nonpublic school students for tutoring, school supplies, computers, and tuition among other expenses.
- Creates a state tax credit for donations to scholarship organizations, including existing Catholic school foundations.

*With 340,000 signatures, the Legislature can pass these two measures without requiring the signature of the governor, who unfortunately vetoed similar bills last fall.*

## What Can I do?

- **Volunteer to help with the Signature Drive.**
- **Prayerfully consider signing the two petitions to create the scholarship program and the tax credit.**
- **Take 5 minutes and sign!**



<https://www.letmikiidslern.com/about>

Thanks for supporting the needs of Michigan students! You're the key to winning the battle, and to make every single signature count, it's important for you to follow the following instructions.

- 1 Check the volunteer box.
- 2 As the circulator, you must write in the COUNTY NAME at the top of each petition form. All of the signers of this petition sheet must be registered voters of that county. You can circulate petitions for any county, but each county must be on a different sheet.
- 3 The signer must sign their full name as they are registered to vote, and then write it in neatly in the next box.
- 4 The signer must write in the house number and street name, or rural route, where they live. No PO Boxes, please.
- 5 The signer must write in the City or Township where they are registered to vote. Villages and unincorporated areas are always within townships.
- 6 The signer next writes in their zip code.
- 7 Finally, the signer must write in the date they signed the petition, not their birth date.
- 8 After the circulator has gathered signatures, they must complete the Circulator section in the lower right of each petition form. No signatures can be added to the petition form after this portion has been completed and dated.

**To wrap up the petition:**

- Make certain that all sections have been completed.
- Ditto marks are not acceptable.
- Petition forms are acceptable with at least one, but no more than 9 signatures.
- Yes, you can both sign and circulate a petition form.
- When completed, return to us in the enclosed envelope.

**Questions? Or need more petitions? LetMIKidsLearn.com**

The circulator of this petition is (check one):  A paid signature gatherer  A volunteer signature gatherer

If the petition circulator does not comply with all of the requirements of the Michigan election law for petition circulators, any signature obtained by that petition circulator on that petition is invalid and will not be counted.

**INITIATION OF LEGISLATION**

Initiation of legislation to create the Student Opportunity Scholarship Act, an act to require the Department of Treasury to establish a Student Opportunity Scholarship (SOS) program; require a uniform process to determine the amount of funds to be allocated to each eligible student's SOS account; specify the qualifying education expenses for which SOS funds could be used; specify that funds allocated to an SOS account for a student for which qualifying education expenses would not be considered taxable income to the parent or SOS student; and to provide appropriations for the implementation of this act.

For the list of the Student Opportunity Scholarship Act, see the reverse side of this petition.

We, the undersigned qualified and registered electors, residents in the county of \_\_\_\_\_ state of Michigan, respectively petition for initiation of legislation.

**WARNING - A person who knowingly signs this petition more than once, signs a name other than his or her own, signs when not a qualified and registered elector, or sets opposite his or her signature on a petition, a date other than the actual date the signature was affixed, is violating the provisions of the Michigan election law.**

NO. OF SIGNATURES	PRINTED NAME	STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE	CITY OR TOWNSHIP	ZIP	DATE OF SIGNING
					MO. YEAR
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					

**CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR**

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is 18 years of age or older and a United States citizen; that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person appearing to sign the petition. The person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the city or township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross or check mark in the box provided, otherwise each signature on the petition shall be invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

**WARNING - A circulator knowingly making a false statement in the above certificate, a person not a circulator who signs as a circulator, or a person who signs a name other than his or her own as circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.**

**CIRCULATOR - Do not sign or date certificate until after circulating petition.**

(Signature of Circulator) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

(Printed Name of Circulator) \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Residence Address (Street and No. \_\_\_\_\_) (Do Not Enter a Post Office Box)

(City or Township, State, Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

