



ONTARIO ALLIANCE OF
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WHY THE TAX CREDIT IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR ...

- The Equity in Education Tax Credit (EETC) **supports parents** when they choose the school that is best suited for their children. When parents choose a school that teaches the same beliefs and values as the home, children become more confident in their self-identity and their place in the community.
- By supporting parental choice in education, the EETC encourages parents to be involved in the education of their children. Any policy that **strengthens the family** is worth fighting for.
- The EETC is founded on the premise that a **wide and diverse range of school options** can meet the public good. Not all flowers in the garden have to come from the same greenhouse. Parental choice in education is good for Ontario.
- Research shows that school choice results in **improved student performance**. It is in the best interest of students, and more broadly, the future of the province, when students do better in their studies.
- Research also shows that school choice **increases parental satisfaction**. Instead of wasting energy trying to get one program ahead of another, parents who choose a school can spend their efforts improving that school.
- In terms of the broader educational landscape, there is increasing evidence that school choice **improves all education**. There is a growing body of research, especially from American jurisdictions, that shows public education improves when parents are free to choose a school.
- In financial terms the fact that the EETC is a refundable tax credit means that it **helps low and middle income families** the most. These are the families whose ability to choose a school is enhanced by this government support. Helping those who need it most is a policy worth fighting for.
- On average, OACS families received benefits of about \$280 per student for the 2002 tax year. This will at least double to **\$560 per student** for the 2003 tax year.
- The EETC is a **legally-constituted right** for parents in Ontario. Parents are not a lobby group or a special interest, so any attempt to remove this right must be seen as an attack on a certain group of citizens, which is discrimination. Resisting any move that will make Christian school parents second class citizens is a fight worth fighting.

See www.oacs.org for more information