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Statement on Veto: The Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Will Help WI Students, Including Public School Students

Wisconsin Benefits with a Thriving Educational Ecosystem

The Federal Tax Credit Scholarship (FTCS) that was signed into law last July has the ability to help the vast majority of students in Wisconsin, including the vast majority of public school students. It simply allows every taxpayer to donate up to \$1700 to help fund education. Public schools calling for more money in a current [lawsuit](#) against the Legislature to increase proficiency scores, among other issues, can use the FTCS to help their reading proficiency scores, special education, and more.

[Arne Duncan](#), Education Secretary under President Obama, and [Jorge Elorza](#), CEO of Democrats for Education Reform, state that one solution to the low proficiency scores is the FTCS, and that “for both current and incoming governors, it’s a chance to show voters that they’re willing to do what it takes to deliver for students and families, no matter where the ideas originate.”

As an organization that serves hundreds of schools and myriads of students who are not funded by state taxpayer dollars, we fully see the benefits our private schools are having in saving state taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year, while delivering students an outstanding education and contributing to our state’s economy. Our schools give the Governor and the State Legislature the ability to spend more taxpayer dollars on the areas of their choice: public education, corrections, healthcare, and more.

The FTCS simply allows taxpayers to make a charitable contribution to the educational entity of their choice. As public schools have far more students than private schools, public schools stand to gain so much more funding through the FTCS. We see the value of a healthy educational ecosystem in Wisconsin, and the FTCS will help to ensure every student in Wisconsin has the ability and the resources to succeed.