



Statement regarding the March 20, 2025, Executive Order related to the U.S. Department of Education

March 21, 2025

The Office of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Saginaw recognizes that members of our community may have questions or concerns related to this matter. We have worked to address potential questions below and will continue to update our community if/when actions related to the Department of Education may significantly impact our Catholic schools.

How will the executive order related to the Department of Education impact our Catholic Schools?

- Most likely, very little to no impact on our Catholic schools.

Why will the order likely not significantly impact our Catholic schools?

- A vast majority of the funding for K-12 education is collected and distributed by the state. The executive order does not specifically address state funding or the operation of the Michigan Department of Education.
- The Michigan constitution contains an amendment (the Blaine Amendment) that prevents any public dollars from being used for virtually any expense related to operating a non-public school.
- It is currently believed that most funding related to federal programs, such as special education, free and reduced lunch and other support for schools will continue to exist. The way those funds are routed to the state and local education agencies (districts) may change.

What you can do to support Catholic schools:

- Contact your representative and senators in Washington and encourage them to support *The Educational Choice for Children Act* (ECCA).
- Engage with your local elected officials on important state-level funding issues (See [Policy Notes](#), [Funding Priorities](#) for more info.)
- Consider attending future Public Policy Days hosted by the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools. On March 20, Superintendent Dr. Cormac Lynn was pleased to join board members, parents, a student and a school president and principal to advocate for our schools.

Why is the Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA) important?

- It would allow a minimum of \$20 million in scholarships to be generated for use across the state of Michigan via donations, not state or federal funds.
- According to Invest in Education, “the funds could be used to pay for tuition, tutoring, special needs services, homeschooling curriculum materials, and education technology, among other eligible uses. Scholarships would be funded with private donations, not federal dollars, and donors would receive a federal tax credit.” (For more information see [Invest in Education](#).)

How can you advocate for ECCA?

- Contact your members of congress and urge them to pass ECCA.
- This can easily be done with assistance from Invest in Education [here](#).

The Office of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Saginaw
[Contact Us](#)