



**SAINT JAMES**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH + FAMILY + RESPONSIBILITY + RESPECT

525 E. 14th Street + Crete, NE 68333 + 402-826-2318

Dear Parents,

April 20, 2021

I am writing to tell you about an important bill being discussed by the Nebraska Legislature – the Opportunity Scholarships Act (LB364). LB364 increases scholarship opportunities for low-income families to attend the private school of their choice by enacting a tax credit for individual and corporate donations to nonprofit scholarship granting organizations.

Many families already benefit from scholarships to attend our schools. While our dioceses and parish schools provide financial aid to as many families as possible, there are still many parents who want to send their kids to parochial schools but can't afford it. LB364 would change that problem and make a life transforming impact for these families and children.

Parents are the primary educator of their children and have the right to choose an educational setting for their children which corresponds to their own convictions. But that right can't be exercised if the parent lacks the financial means. LB364 would give more parents the freedom to truly choose a faith-based education, if they so desire.

**Would you take 10 minutes to write a personalized message in support of LB364 to our State Senator Tom Brandt? His e-mail is [tbrandt@leg.ne.gov](mailto:tbrandt@leg.ne.gov). If you prefer to call, his office number is 402.471.2711. Better yet, if you'd like to write a personal letter, his address is:**

**Sen. Tom Brandt  
Room 1528  
PO Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509**

For more info, please visit <https://investinkidsnebraska.org/>.

Thank you for your help in this important mission of helping those most in need and bearing the light of Christ in the public square!

I'm also attaching a letter which you could sign and send, if you don't have time to write your own. A personal note from you need not be this long or detailed, however. Short notes have great value too.

In the Heart of Christ the King,

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.

Dear Senator Brandt,

We at St. James School in Crete, NE wanted to extend our support for LB364, the Opportunity Scholarships Act, that was introduced by Senator Lou Ann Linehan. LB364 provides more K-12 education scholarship opportunities for low-income children to attend the school of their choice by providing a state income tax credit to donors who provide financial assistance to non-profit scholarship granting organizations. This legislation resolves a critical problem we are experiencing across Nebraska: that there are more parents of children seeking education scholarship opportunities than there is scholarship assistance available.

Fundamentally, every parent should have the ability to direct their children's education and every child deserves access to an education that best fits his or her needs.

While we educate children because the Gospel of Jesus Christ compels us to, there is ample data of state savings from the 18 states who already have scholarship programs. In fact, our neighbors in Iowa and their Department of Revenue recognize that their scholarship tax credit program achieves a net state savings of around \$12 million annually. Non-public schools across the state save the taxpayers around \$500 million per year. This legislation will make an important impact on children's' lives in a fiscally responsible way that will continue a long tradition of our schools decreasing burdens on property taxpayers.

We are also confident low-income students who receive these scholarships will be accessing a life-changing educational experience. When a child is in a learning environment that is best for him or her, educational performance increases. In addition, when parents are more involved in choosing their children's education, everybody wins. Our Catholic school, like so many other parochial schools in our legislative district and across the state, prepares our children for success with accountable, highly equipped, and passionate teachers and administrators.

We all want children to succeed in whichever school is best for them, whether that is a public school or a private school. LB364 will not hurt, but help further the positive, long-standing partnership of our public and parochial schools in educating children, as well as continue fostering healthy competition. By adopting LB364, Nebraska can and will see these same positive educational outcomes as other states with similar forms of school choice.

Sincerely,