

# THE FACTS

## ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

There is a lot of false information being circulated regarding Equal Opportunity Education scholarships and organizations like the Opportunity Scholarship Fund. Here are the facts:

### OPPONENTS SAY...

*Tax credits from this program only benefit corporations and the wealthy, shifting the burden of funding public education and core state services to other taxpayers.*

*Redirecting resources to private schools erodes the ability of public schools to serve the 425,000 children from low-income families in attendance.*

*A family of four earning up to \$139,000 a year can receive an Equal Opportunity Education scholarship. That's nearly triple the median Oklahoma household income.*

*The state is giving away millions of dollars in tax credits. In 2016-2017, corporations received more than \$2 million in tax credits for donating to private schools.*

### THE TRUTH

Lower-income families can now afford the same educational options wealthy families have. If it weren't for generous donors, **lower-income families could not afford** educational alternatives.

This reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of the law. The credits and dollars involved are **not public revenue** (resources). Nor is there any evidence public schools are harmed in any way.

State law sets this limit. However, private schools – which choose scholarship recipients – are **much more stringent** about what they consider low income.

States “give away” tax credits to **achieve a public good**. In this case, every \$1 in scholarship tax credits saves Oklahoma \$1.51 in spending.

*Private schools accepting Equal Opportunity Education scholarship students aren't required to report any information about student achievement.*

College entrance scores are measured against all other schools and are publicly reported. It is easy for people to see which schools are **working best for the students of Oklahoma.**

*The ability to double dip allows donors making multi-year donation commitments to tax credit scholarships to potentially profit from their donations.*

Under new federal tax law, it is **not possible to profit** from a gift to a state tax credit program serving a charitable purpose. (Some business expenses may be eligible for a full deduction.)

*Scholarship-granting organizations don't meet the required percentage of donations dedicated to serving children from low-income families and instead want to lower the requirement.*

"Low-income" students are defined by the number of public school students receiving free-and-reduced lunches - **a flawed measurement.** This is because the two largest school districts simply deem ALL students to be eligible, which drastically inflates the "official" number.

The Opportunity Scholarship Fund (OSF) provides life-changing opportunities to lower-income K-12 students who might not otherwise receive a pathway to specialized education.

**OSF is good for Oklahomans and good for the state budget.**

**RAISE THE CAP**  
**VOTE YES ON SB 407 AND HB 2621**



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