



AOC Tier 2 & 3 Partner Update

Message From: Sr. Mary Paul McCaughey, O.P.

Still Alive

The Illinois Kids Campaign is still very much in the mix as the State budget continues to be pounded out in Springfield. Thanks so much for having your system of communication in place which will allow for an instant activation of a supportive network.

Your voice – and the voice of your parents – truly will make all the difference. In speaking to legislators, I know that your in-district visits are cementing solid relationships, repairing poor ones, and chipping away at resistance.

But it's Illinois!

Yes, last time I looked it was – but Illinois must find real, creative, and JUST ways to meet the needs of families, especially the middle class who have been overlooked for so long. The *Invest in Kids Act* is peanuts, given its rate of

return. And while the scholarship portion does indeed reach out to those yearning for our schools for whom they are out of reach, the plan also touches those who take on that second (or third) job to pay tuition. Even those paying full freight are assisted with the increase in their own deductions.

www.illinoiskidscampaign.org

Lessons from Florida

In an excellent panel designed to encourage the formation of Scholarship Granting Organizations here in Illinois, Doug Tuthill of Florida, who helps to manage over 80,000 of their scholarships annually, shared the Florida research. The program can show how the legislation has improved performance for transferred students into nonpublic schools and for public schools themselves.....and at a SAVINGS to the State.

Other lessons shared – from Pennsylvania and Alabama – included the continued need for independent fundraising and donors (as gifts, not as the tax credits which are simply directing taxes to an SGO) and the need for an independent, clear, and transparent application process. And this about the Illinois legislation, at your insistence: your school accepts the child on your usual basis BEFORE the student can go to an SGO for assistance.

Beat the Drum

Be ready. Call me with any questions or concerns. Be ready to flip a switch to flood support in the next few weeks. If parents are available to you now, get their emails going now.

Hugs to your kids and enjoy a truly blessed year.

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For more details about Illinois Kids Campaign, please see the website:

illinoiskidscampaign.org

School Success Stories Needed

You have them! Especially about kids. Please help the IKC by sending the good news or a link to your release, website, or Facebook page to tcobb@onechanceillinois.org or wgodwin@onechanceillinois.org and they will use more broadly. Please also be sure the legislators who serve your district receive your positive publications.

CCI Newsletter

Catholic Conference's Zach Wichmann has a great IKC summary in their most recent newsletter. Be sure to share that article with LAP and your most thoughtful supporters.