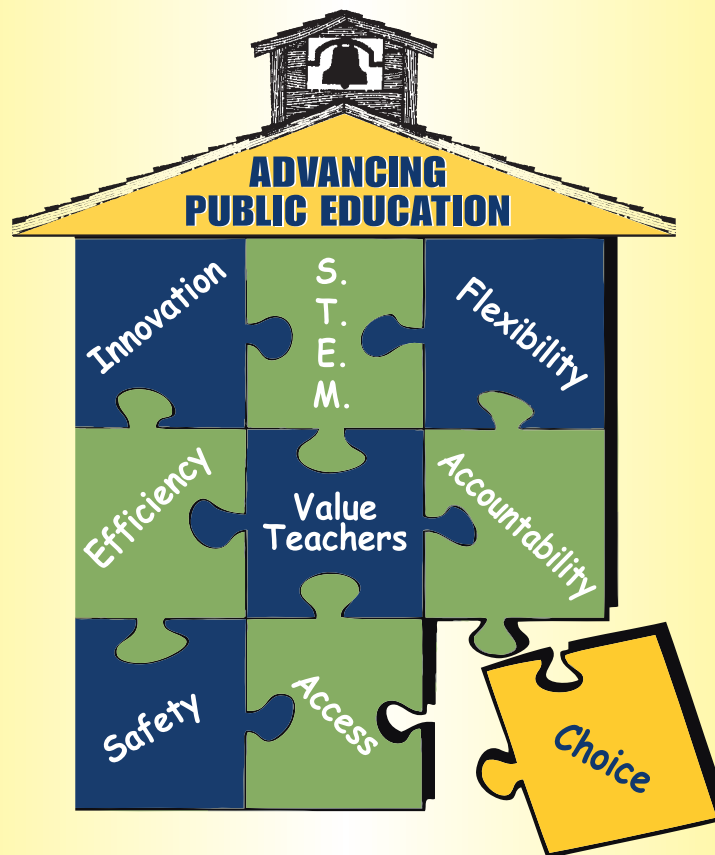


Allowing parents to choose the very best for their children

SENATE BILL 1

“THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT ACT” MEDIA KIT



Each piece helps solve the puzzle...

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS FOR EVERY CHILD



State Senator
Anthony H. Williams

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Table of Contents

	Page
"Why I Support School Choice" by State Senator Anthony H. Williams.....	2
SB-1 Narrative	
<i>The Very Best for Our Children</i>	3
SB-1 Outline	
I. <i>Overview</i>	4
II. <i>Scope of Opportunity Scholarship Program</i>	4
III. <i>Amount of Opportunity Scholarship</i>	5
IV. <i>Implementation</i>	5
V. <i>Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)</i>	6
Legislative Timeline (Projected)	7
SB-1 Sponsors and Co-sponsors	7
SB-1 Facts vs. Myths	8
Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools	10
SB-1 Advocates Contact Information	14





Why I Support School Choice

Good schools create good citizens. They send a message to businesses that talented, skilled employees exist here. They save the state money because students who attend good schools are less likely to end up on the wrong side of the law, are more likely to graduate from high school and are less likely to require public financial support.

There are few professions I hold in higher esteem than teaching. My mother is a retired public school educator, and watching her dedication to her students made me realize what it really means to commit to a child's future.

Good teachers and good principals make for good schools.

Unfortunately, good schools are in short supply in some parts of our state, and those shortcomings wind up costing all of us.

Some would argue that it's just a matter of needing more money. But we've continued to pour dollars into systems with minimal returns. Sometimes, the schools aren't even safe, let alone adequate. Meanwhile, students are left to languish, at a time when global competition is peaking.

We can change that. We can increase the educational opportunities from which parents can choose—and I mean all parents, not just those with means who already have a choice. Options should be afforded to all families, regardless of zip code or income.

Traditional public schools are part of that options package and I remain committed to working to improve them all. Also a part of that package are charter, magnet, cyber, vocational, technical, trade and other schools. And at the end of the day, it should be parents, not bureaucrats, who decide which environment is best for their children. And once they've made that decision, money the state makes available for that child's education should follow him or her to that school.

Nothing would have to change for parents whose children attend top-notch public schools. But for parents whose local public school is unsafe or unproductive, there needs to be a way out.

I attended public schools. But by the 8th grade, my mother was so frustrated by the unsafe neighborhoods I had to travel to get to school and lack of stimulation once I was there that she found a scholarship for me to attend a private boarding school. Of course, if it had been supplied by the state, it may have been called a voucher. I call it a lifesaver because the experience at that school changed my life. I was lucky.

Unfortunately, not every child is that fortunate. And too often, and for too many, achievement is a matter of chance, not design.

It is in our power to change the paradigm. To stop worrying about systems and start worrying about students, to stop dreaming about what should be and start dealing with what is. It's time to start supporting our children, our future.

I'd be a hypocrite if I didn't say to every parent in Pennsylvania that your child deserves what I was fortunate enough to receive - a chance at a great education. For me, that's what school choice is all about.

- Senator Anthony H. Williams



The Very Best for Our Children

Providing access to a quality education for every child is the most important issue facing our state and our nation today.

Despite efforts, over years, to ensure that all schools provide a quality education for all students, too many of our schools are not making the grade.

Parents, who are financially able, wanting the very best for their children, make a choice by moving away from a failing school or by sending their children to a school of their own choosing. Parents, without the financial means, want the very same for their children. Why should we stand in their way?

SB-1, The Opportunity Scholarship and Educational Improvement Tax Credit Act, would allow low-income families to take the state tax dollars devoted to their child and apply them to the public or nonpublic school of their choice.

Families like Natalie Pope and her son Jailyn. Four years ago, Natalie left the comfort of her family's home and moved into a one-bedroom apartment. Jailyn sleeps in the bedroom. Natalie sleeps on the couch. Because Natalie's aging mother is no longer able to work the three jobs that allowed her grandson to attend a private Montessori pre-K and kindergarten, Natalie made the sacrifices she was able to make so that Jailyn would not attend the 1st grade at a neighborhood school that was the scene of violence and daily police activity. Jailyn is in the 4th grade now and doing well. His mother is worried though because the high school that serves their new neighborhood is a persistently lowest-achieving school. Natalie supports Senate Bill 1. She prays that an opportunity scholarship will be available for Jailyn as he enters high school. She wants the best for her child.

The bill would also help middle-class students by expanding the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC), providing tax credits to companies that donate money for scholarships or educational improvement.

Students like Destanie Armstrong. Destanie's mother, disabled by a stroke, was not able to afford her private school education beyond the 4th grade. Unwilling to trust Destanie's future to her failing neighborhood school, she sought and received a \$2000 scholarship funded by the EITC. That scholarship pays nearly half the tuition at the church-affiliated private school in her neighborhood that Destanie now attends. Destanie is an honor roll student who looks forward to high school and college.

SB-1 will not fix all that is wrong with our schools. It will, however, provide a way out for students who would be otherwise trapped in a failing school. It is one important step toward meeting our obligation to provide a quality education for all of our children.





I. Overview

- Includes scholarships for both public-to-public and public-to-private school choice
- Increases annual funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) to \$100 million and moves the EITC provisions back into the School Code
 - An increase of \$25 million over the \$75 million that will be in effect in fiscal year 2011-2012
- Program will be administered by an Educational Choice Board (an independent board inside the Pennsylvania Department of Education)
- Allows for a speedy resolution of constitutional issues by granting exclusive jurisdiction over challenges to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- Funding for the scholarship program will be subject to annual appropriation, with funds distributed on a pro rata basis if the program is underfunded

II. Scope of Opportunity Scholarship Program

- Eligibility: All low-income children, phased in as follows:
 - Year 1 - low-income students currently attending persistently lowest-achieving schools only
 - Year 2 - all low-income students residing within the attendance boundary of a persistently lowest-achieving school
 - Year 3 - all low-income students regardless of school
- Definition of “persistently lowest-achieving school”: A public elementary or secondary school in Pennsylvania achieving within the lowest measured group of 5% on the most recent assessment for which data is posted on PDE’s website.
 - 144 schools fall within this category; 91 in Philadelphia
- Definition of “low-income child”: 130% of federal poverty level (see chart below)

The 2010 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia

Persons in family	Poverty guideline*
1	\$10,830
2	14,570 (130% = \$18,941)
3	18,310 (130% = \$23,803)
4	22,050 (130% = \$28,665)
5	25,790 (130% = \$33,527)
6	29,530 (130% = \$38,389)
7	33,270 (130% = \$43,251)
8	37,010 (130% = \$48,113)
<i>*For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.</i>	



III. Amount of Opportunity Scholarship

- Amount of opportunity scholarship:
 - Base amount of 100% of the state's per-pupil subsidy to the child's resident school district
 - Not to exceed the student's actual tuition at the school district or private school attended
 - Local and Federal share (subsidy) do NOT follow the child and remain with the child's resident school district
- Excess scholarship fund for existing private school students:
 - During year 1, any amount awarded to a student over and above the student's actual tuition charge will be placed into a dedicated fund that will be used to help fund the scholarship program for existing private school students beginning in year 2

IV. Implementation

- For public-to-public enrollment:
 - In addition to the state-funded opportunity scholarship, a student's resident school district may create a locally-funded scholarship equal to at least 35% of local per-pupil spending
 - Locally-funded scholarship serves as an additional incentive for a district to receive nonresident students
 - Student applies directly for admission to other public school districts
 - School districts will not be required to accept scholarship students, but instead will develop their own admissions policies requiring that, if any students are accepted, they are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis
 - School districts may give priority to students whose resident school districts award a locally-funded scholarship
- Enrollment applications: Students apply directly to the school district or private school desired, which notifies the Educational Choice Board of the student's enrollment
- Scholarship applications: Students apply directly to the Educational Choice Board, which determines the scholarship amounts and distributes the awards
 - For students attending private school: Payment distributed by the Commonwealth to parents, payable only to the private school the student attends
 - For students attending public school: Payment made by transfer from the Commonwealth directly to the public school the student attends
- Education Choice Board:
 - 3 members appointed by the governor with Senate confirmation
 - 4-year terms
 - Develops guidelines for implementation of the program and administers the program
 - Board may hire an executive director and staff
 - PA Dept. of Education provides office space, funding and equipment



V. Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)

- Increases EITC funding level to \$100 million
 - An increase of \$25 million over the \$75 million that will be in effect in fiscal year 2011-2012
- Ratio of credit amount made available to scholarship organizations vs. educational improvement organizations will be changed from 2:1 to 3:1
- Other proposed changes to program:
 - Applications for tax credits will be accepted in the following priority:
 - Tax credits for the second year of a two-year commitment AND tax credits for an educational improvement organization that is also a school foundation
 - Tax credits for the renewal of a two-year commitment
 - Applications by pass-through entities
 - Credits may be claimed on joint returns
 - Automatic increase mechanism:
 - Beginning in the 2014-2015 fiscal year (the fourth year of implementation of the opportunity scholarship program), the available EITC credit would automatically increase by 5% if, in any fiscal year, the amount of credit approved equals or exceeds 90% of the amount of credit available
 - Increased available credit amount would be the base amount available going forward

With the enactment of EITC in 2001, Pennsylvania became the first state to offer an education tax credit targeting corporations. A business paying taxes in Pennsylvania can receive up to \$300,000 in tax credits annually in consideration of contributions made to support scholarship funds or educational improvement organizations. Organizations benefitting from the program include the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Big Brothers / Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, Children's Literacy Initiative, historical societies, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, and many more.





Legislative Timeline (Projected)

- February 16, 2011: Senate Education Committee Hearings
- March 1, 2011: SB-1 voted out of Senate Education Committee
- April 2011: SB-1 to be introduced to House

SB-1 Sponsors and Co-sponsors

- JEFFREY E. PICCOLA (R-15)
- ANTHONY H. WILLIAMS (D-8)
- Joseph B. Scarnati III (R-25)
- Dominic Pileggi (R-9)
- Mike Folmer (R-48)
- Patrick M. Browne (R-16)
- Lloyd K. Smucker (R-13)
- Richard L. Alloway II (R-33)
- Edwin B. Erickson (R-26)
- John C. Rafferty Jr. (R-44)
- John H. Eichelberger (R-30)
- John Pippy (R-37)
- Donald C. White (R-41)
- Bob Mensch (R-24)
- Mike Brubaker (R-36)
- LeAnna M. Washington (D-4)
- Michael J. Stack (D-5)





Top Five Myths about Senate Bill 1

Separating Fact from Myth

■ MYTH 1

SB-1 ends up becoming an expensive entitlement and only helps poor inner-city children.

■ FACT

SB-1 is not an entitlement. It is a redirection of a relatively small portion of already budgeted state funds from the control of the school to the control of the parents. The federal and local portions remain with the school. Channeling a small portion of what was a staggering \$26 billion in 2009 to provide a quality education to our children is far more cost-effective than the future costs of incarceration, providing social services and lost state revenue. Uneducated children become costly adults.

SB-1 helps families throughout Pennsylvania, in urban, suburban and rural communities. Middle-class and working-class families can receive financial assistance from the Education Improvement Tax Credit component of SB-1.

■ MYTH 2

Opportunity Scholarships end up taking public money away from public schools.

■ FACT

Taxpayers support the education of children, not the support of any one educational system. This money is not the property of the public school system, but of the child. School choice changes the paradigm to put children's interests ahead of "the system's" interests. Public school systems would still receive more than \$25 billion, or 99.5% of all education funding, and children making school choices would receive a total of \$125 million, or 0.5% of all funding.

■ MYTH 3

Parochial and private schools don't have to be accountable to the public.

■ FACT

While it is true that public schools must adhere to many laws, this fact has failed to make schools answerable to the public. Charter schools, private schools and parochial schools are subject to the highest level of accountability. If they fail to perform, the marketplace will ultimately force them to shut down. While many private schools choose not to participate in the Pennsylvania School System of Assessment because it is not an achievement test, nor is it a test that assesses aptitude, they frequently utilize assessments such as the Stanford Achievement Test, Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Metropolitan Achievement Test, which are more academically rigorous than the PSSA.



■ **MYTH 4**

Public schools must accept every student; private and parochial schools do not.

■ **FACT**

Public schools generally accept only those students who live in their districts. Wealthy suburban areas, for example, do not accept poor minority students from the inner city. Even within public school districts, geographic lines are drawn. There are magnet and special admission public schools that only admit a select group of students who meet certain criteria. In Philadelphia for example, special admission/magnet schools like Central High School, Girls High, Masterman and the High School for the Creative and Performing Arts are traditional public schools with highly selective admission standards. These traditional public schools do not accept everyone. Also the public schools have a mechanism in place called an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that allows children to escape schools that are not meeting their needs. As for special needs students, private schools already serve that population. In fact, public schools often turn to private schools to serve children with severe disabilities and behavioral problems. Pennsylvania has 30 Approved Private Schools which serve more than 4,000 students with severe disabilities.

■ **MYTH 5**

SB-1 is unconstitutional.

■ **FACT**

The Pennsylvania State Constitution states, "No money raised for the support of the public schools of the Commonwealth shall be appropriated to or used for the support of any sectarian school." General Fund revenue does not meet this definition as it is not raised for the purpose of funding public education. School district property taxes are raised for this purpose, and that is why SB-1 involves only state funding for private schools, and not local tax revenue.

Other well established, government-funded voucher programs are constitutional. Social security and Medicaid are examples of voucher programs through which recipients can use taxpayer money at the grocery stores or hospitals of their choice. Taxpayer money already flows to private and religious colleges and universities through various government loans and grants to students. In 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Zelman v Simmons-Harris* declared the Cleveland voucher program constitutional because it gave money to parents of elementary and secondary schoolchildren rather than to specific institutions. Those that oppose the bill on constitutional grounds should allow it to pass and let the courts decide.



Persistently Failing Schools/Location¹

DISTRICT	SCHOOL
ALIQUIPPA SD	ALIQUIPPA JSHS
ALLENTOWN CITY SD	CENTRAL EL SCH
CHESTER-UPLAND SD	CHESTER HS
CHESTER-UPLAND SD	COLUMBUS EL SCH
CHESTER-UPLAND SD	THE VILLAGE AT CHESTER UPLAND
CHICHESTER SD	CHICHESTER SHS
CLAIRTON CITY SD	CLAIRTON MS/HS
CRAWFORD CENTRAL SD	SECOND DISTRICT EL S
DUQUESNE CITY SD	DUQUESNE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
EPHRATA AREA SD	WASHINGTON ED CENTER
ERIE CITY SD	WAYNE MS
ERIE CITY SD	EAST SHS
HARRISBURG CITY SD	CAREER TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY
HARRISBURG CITY SD	HAMILTON SCH
HARRISBURG CITY SD	HARRISBURG HS
HARRISBURG CITY SD	STEELE SCHOOL
HARRISBURG CITY SD	MELROSE SCH
HARRISBURG CITY SD	ROWLAND SCHOOL
HARRISBURG CITY SD	CAMP CURTIN SCH
HARRISBURG CITY SD	SCOTT SCHOOL
HARRISBURG CITY SD	LINCOLN SCH
HARRISBURG CITY SD	DOWNEY SCH
HARRISBURG CITY SD	FOOSE SCH
HARRISBURG CITY SD	BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCHOOL
KEYSTONE CENTRAL SD	BUCKTAIL AREA HIGH SCHOOL
LANCASTER SD	PHOENIX ACADEMY
LANCASTER SD	MCCASKEY CAMPUSES
MCKEESPORT AREA SD	MCKEESPORT AREA SHS
NEWPORT SD	NEWPORT HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	LEARNING ACAD NORTH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	UNIVERSITY CITY HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	WEST PHILADELPHIA HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	GRATZ SIMON HS

¹Pennsylvania Department of Education



PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	VAUX ROBERTS HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	GERMANTOWN HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	ROXBOROUGH HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	DOUGLAS STEPHEN A SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	JOHN BARTRAM HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	OLNEY HS WEST-704
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	SOUTH PHILADELPHIA HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	SAYRE WILLIAM L MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	KENSINGTON INTL BUSINESS FINANCE
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	FELS SAMUEL HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	ALCORN JAMES SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	OVERBROOK HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	KING MARTIN LUTHER HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	OLNEY HS EAST-705
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	KENSINGTON CREATIVE & PERF ARTS HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	BLUFORD GUION EL SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	LAMBERTON ROBERT HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	DUNBAR PAUL L SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	FITZSIMONS THOMAS ACADEMY
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	KENSINGTON CULINARY ARTS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	JONES JOHN PAUL MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	FRANKLIN BENJAMIN HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	HILL LESLIE P SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	FRANKFORD HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	EDISON HS - FAREIRA SKILLS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	LINCOLN ABRAHAM HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	RANDOLPH A PHILIP AVT HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	DAROFF SAMUEL SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	STETSON JOHN B MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	SMEDLEY FRANKLIN SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	DOUGLASS FREDERICK SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	ALLEN ETHEL DR.
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	CLEMENTE ROBERTO MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	CLYMER GEORGE SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	GILLESPIE ELIZ D MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	SWENSON ARTS & TECHNOLOGY HS



PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	KELLEY WILLIAM D SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	POTTER-THOMAS SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	PASTORIUS FRANCIS P
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	STANTON M HALL SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	DOBBINS MURRELL AVT HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	WALTER G SMITH SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	HARRISON WILLIAM SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	CLEVELAND GROVER SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	HARRITY WILLIAM F SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	HARDING WARREN G MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	BARRATT NORRIS S MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	PRATT ANNA B SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	PENNELL JOSEPH SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	MCMICHAEL MORTON SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	REYNOLDS GEN JOHN F
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	CREIGHTON THOMAS SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	WRIGHT RICHARD R SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	WHITTIER JOHN G
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	GEORGE WASHINGTON HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	VARE EDWIN H MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	ELKIN LEWIS SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	MCKINLEY WILLIAM SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	HARTRANFT JOHN F SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	EDMUNDS HENRY R SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	BIRNEY GEN DAVID B SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	STEARNE ALLEN M SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	MORTON THOMAS G SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	STEEL EDWARD SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	SHERIDAN PHILIP H SC
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	SHEPPARD ISAAC SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	HOWE JULIA WARD SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	MIFFLIN THOMAS SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	ANDERSON ADD B SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	DUCKREY TANNER SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	DREW CHARLES R SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	CARROLL CHARLES SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	BRYANT WILLIAM C SCH



PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	SHERIDAN WEST
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	BEEBER DIMNER MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	TAYLOR BAYARD SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	LEIDY JOSEPH SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	PEPPER GEORGE MS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	FURNESS HORACE HS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	LEA HENRY C SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	MASTBAUM JULES E AVTS
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	FELTONVILLE INTERMEDIATE SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	KENDERTON SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	KINSEY JOHN L SCH
PHILADELPHIA CITY SD	LOWELL JAMES R SCH
PITTSBURGH SD	WESTINGHOUSE HS
PITTSBURGH SD	PEABODY HS
PITTSBURGH SD	OLIVER HS
PITTSBURGH SD	PERRY TRADITIONAL ACAD HS
PITTSBURGH SD	NORTHVIEW EL
PITTSBURGH SD	HELEN S FAISON ARTS ACADEMY
PITTSBURGH SD	PITTSBURGH UNIVERSITY PREP
PITTSBURGH SD	KING M L EL SCH
PITTSBURGH SD	ROONEY MIDDLE SCHL
PITTSBURGH SD	LANGLEY HS
PITTSBURGH SD	BRASHEAR HS
PITTSBURGH SD	WEIL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
READING SD	READING SHS
READING SD	GATEWAY SCH INTL BUISNESS & WORLD LANG
SOUTHEAST DELCO SD	ACADEMY PARK HS
STO-ROX SD	STO-ROX HS
UPPER DARBY SD	CHARLES KELLY ELEM SCHOOL
WILKINSBURG BOROUGH SD	WILKINSBURG SHS
WILKINSBURG BOROUGH SD	WILKINSBURG MS
WILLIAM PENN SD	PENN WOOD SHS
WILLIAM PENN SD	PARK LANE EL SCH
WILLIAM PENN SD	ALDAN SCH
YORK CITY SD	WILLIAM PENN SHS



SB-1 Advocates Contact Information

■ **Darlene Callands**

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Organized in 1999, the mission of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) is to increase access to high-quality educational options for black children by actively supporting parental choice policies and programs that empower low-income and working-class black families.

■ **Joe Watkins**

Chairman
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Students First is a non-partisan committee devoted to supporting Pennsylvania legislative candidates who support real education reform that puts the interests of students first.

■ **Otto Banks**

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In 1991, REACH (Road to Educational Achievement Through CHoice) was founded to coordinate the efforts to pass school choice legislation in Pennsylvania. Since then, REACH has grown into a broad, diverse coalition that includes members from the business community, ethnic and religious organizations, parents, and taxpayer groups. As a non-profit, REACH is governed by an independent board of directors and funded through generous contributions of Pennsylvania citizens, churches, and foundations.

■ **Jay Ostrich (or Matt Brouillette)**

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The Commonwealth Foundation, an independent, non-profit research and educational institute, works every day to effectively demonstrate the societal benefits of individual liberty, free enterprise, and limited, accountable government so that key decision makers in Pennsylvania embrace them.

■ **Phil Murren Esq.**

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Philip Murren is a partner in the law firm of Ball, Murren & Connell. The firm has been continually involved since 1968 in cases involving religious freedoms and the rights of parents to choose the means of education best suited to the needs of their children. They have examined the constitutionality of Senate Bill 1 under the three provisions of the Constitution of the Commonwealth cited as posing possible obstacles to its implementation and found that no court has ever held such legislation invalid under these provisions, and found no likelihood that a court would strike down school choice legislation under any available precedent.