



Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Newark

Office of Communications and Public Relations

TO: Pastors and Administrators, Principals and School Administration
FROM: Jim Goodness, KHS, Director of Communications
RE: **Website for info on the Opportunity Scholarship Act**
DATE: May 20, 2010

The Opportunity Scholarship Act (S-1872), a bill that authorizes scholarships for children in failing public schools so that they may attend alternative public or nonpublic schools of their choice, cleared the State Senate Economic Growth Committee last week by unanimous vote and is soon to be heard in the Budget Committee.

Action is needed now from our Catholic people to get this bill passed by the full Senate, and to obtain sponsors and ultimate passage of an Assembly version of the Bill, to help Catholic schools and, indeed, all New Jersey's taxpayers.

A new website --www.WeCanDoBetter-nj.org -- has recently been launched to help give information and perspective to the reasons for this bill and how it will help all the people of New Jersey. We ask you to please place a link to this website on your own parish and school website, and to promote the bill through parish and school bulletins. In addition to the facts about the Scholarship Act, the website also enables people to contact members of the State Legislature directly using the new CapWiz email program that the New Jersey Catholic Conference recently installed. Just click on "Take Action" and parishioners will be directed to the link to the CapWiz page. Groups are also organizing now to call and visit with Senators and Assembly Representatives to speak favorably for the Opportunity Scholarship Act, and we urge you to encourage this effort by obtaining volunteers from your parish and school communities.

Thank you.