

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

201 WEST PARK AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301-7760

PHONE (850) 222-3803
FAX (850) 205-6849
WWW.FLACCB.ORG

MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



June 28, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: *Congratulations on eliminating scholarship waitlists*

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The beginning of the 2018-19 school year was a time of uncertainty due to record high demand for state scholarships coupled with the limitations of existing funding streams. Thankfully, your proactive, clear call to eliminate the waitlists for the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) and Gardiner Scholarship Programs resonated with both chambers of the Legislature. On behalf of Florida's Catholic bishops, superintendents, administrators, and the families of more than 85,000 students served in our schools, please accept our sincere gratitude.

Passage of SB 7070 to establish the new Family Empowerment Scholarships provides renewed energy around the principle that parents are the primary educators of their children and are best positioned to determine which academic settings meet the unique needs and challenges of their school-aged children.

During the 2018-19 school year, the FTC program served 18,428 students in Catholic schools and over 600 students attended Catholic schools with Gardiner awards.

We look forward to collaborating with you, Commissioner Corcoran, and the Department of Education to ensure the continued success of these programs. We will also work with legislative leaders in the 2019-20 session to enhance them further, with an eye to increasing the value of scholarships to eligible high school students.

Congratulations to you and your administration on this key success for Florida's families. Be assured of our best wishes for Florida to flourish under your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Sheedy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael B. Sheedy

cc: (Arch)Bishops of Florida
Richard Corcoran, Florida Commissioner of Education
Catholic School Superintendents