



July 20, 2022

Open Letter to Memphis & Nashville Parents

An open letter to parents of K-12 children in Shelby County, Metro Nashville Public Schools and the Achievement School District:

In 2019, the Lee Administration pledged to ensure that every child in Tennessee had access to a high-quality education, no matter the zip code. The Education Savings Account (ESA) program was built to support parents in Memphis and Nashville who urgently need access to options beyond traditional public school. While roadblocks have unnecessarily delayed this assistance for families, the need is greater than ever.

There was a pressing need in 2019 for parents to find the best educational fit for their children and we cannot let the passage of time unfairly deprive students. Data shows that COVID-19 learning loss disproportionately affected students of color. School closure, virtual learning and a loss of supportive environment contributed to declines but we stand at the ready to help students repair and excel. The core mission of the ESA program is for students to be in the most academically tailored and supportive environment possible.

We believe that quality experience supersedes quantity and as partners, we will work together to ensure:

- Independent schools in Memphis and Nashville have seats available for students this year
- Eligible families are aware of the ESA resources available to them this school year and have the opportunity to enroll
- Transparency and accountability are built into every step

We must act swiftly on behalf of children, especially after the last two years of academic and social disruption. We look forward to greater partnership with parents in Memphis and Nashville as this program promises life-changing opportunities. More information for interested families is available [here](#).

Sincerely,

Benton Hall Academy – Davidson
Christ Presbyterian Academy – Davidson
Christ the King School – Davidson
Ezell-Harding Academy – Davidson

Father Ryan High School – Davidson
Holy Rosary Academy – Davidson
King's Academy – Davidson
Overbrook School – Davidson
St. Agnes Academy – Shelby
St. Ann School – Davidson
St. Cecilia Academy – Davidson
St. Clement Christian Academy – Davidson
St. Dominic School – Shelby
St. Edwards School – Davidson
St. Henry School – Davidson
St. Joseph School – Davidson
St. Pius X Classical Academy – Davidson
Templeton Academy – Davidson
Brinkley Heights Urban Academy – Shelby
Central Baptist School – Shelby
Christ Methodist Day School – Shelby
Christ the King Lutheran School – Shelby
The Collegiate School of Memphis – Shelby
Concord Academy – Shelby
Creative Life Preparatory – Shelby
Greater Praise Christian Academy – Shelby
Harding Academy of Memphis – Shelby
Holy Rosary Catholic School – Shelby
Immaculate Conception Cathedral School – Shelby
Immanuel Lutheran School – Shelby
New Hope Christian Academy – Shelby
Presbyterian Day School – Shelby
Sensational Enlightenment Academy – Shelby
St. Ann Bartlett Catholic School – Shelby
St. Benedict at Auburndale School – Shelby
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School – Shelby
St. George's Independent School – Shelby
St. Louis Catholic School – Shelby
St. Paul Catholic School – Shelby
Woodland Presbyterian School – Shelby
Word of Faith Christian Academy – Shelby
St. John Vianney Catholic School – Sumner