

## MICHIGAN SENATE

### Senate Resolution No. 86

Offered by Senators Bellino, Lauwers, Daley, Albert, Nesbitt, Huizenga,  
Damoose, Webber, McDonald Rivet, Wojno and Hauck

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE JANUARY 28-  
FEBRUARY 3, 2024, AS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

WHEREAS, There are 49,858 students attending 210 Catholic elementary and high schools throughout our great state; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of Michigan states that, "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged"; and

WHEREAS, Catholic school parents pay tuition in addition to supporting their local public schools through their taxes; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools comply with the same health, safety, and general welfare regulations required of public schools; and

WHEREAS, Taking into account Michigan's minimum public school foundation allowance of \$9,608 per pupil, Catholic schools will save taxpayers more than \$479 million in state spending during the current school year; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools instill a broad, values-based education, emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, and social values in young people, making them responsible citizens of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools educate many students who are non-Catholic, many students who are economically disadvantaged, and exemplifies that a good education remains the single best way out of poverty; and

WHEREAS, With their traditionally high academic standards, high graduation rates, and commitment to community service, Catholic schools and their graduates make a positive contribution to society; and

WHEREAS, January 28-February 3, 2024, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week, with the theme, "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community" as denoted by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

WHEREAS, The common good of the state of Michigan is strengthened through the continued existence of Catholic schools; and

WHEREAS, Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold "helping others" among their core values; and

WHEREAS, A supportive partnership is created within Catholic schools for each student's family, while also encouraging parental involvement in the education of their children, so that Catholic students form productive lives which benefit future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the members of this legislative body recognize January 28-February 3, 2024, as Catholic Schools Week. We support the continued dedication of Catholic schools across Michigan toward academic excellence and the key role that Catholic schools play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for students; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Michigan Catholic Conference with our highest esteem.

Adopted by the Senate, January 25, 2024.



Secretary of the Senate