



PA House of Representatives
Republican Policy Committee

414, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 260-6144

Rep. Joshua D. Kail
Chairman

PA House Republican Policy Committee Hearing

“Funding Our Children’s Future”

December 12, 2023, at 9 a.m.

**Republican Caucus Room
Room 418, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA**

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

Programs Panel

9:10 a.m.

Lori Milach
Public Services Director, Dauphin County Library System

9:15 a.m.

Questions for the Programs Panel

Scholarship Recipients Panel

9:45 a.m.

Myles Slade-Bowers
Graduate of Bishop McDevitt High School

9:50 a.m.

Joshua Quartmon
Parent at The Samuel School

9:55 a.m.

Chad Weaver
Parent at The Samuel School

10:00 a.m.

Questions for the Scholarship Recipients Panel

10:30 a.m.

Closing Comments



Testifier Biographies

PA House of Representatives Policy Committee Hearing *"Funding Our Children's Future"*



Lori Milach **Public Services Director, Dauphin County Library System**

Lori has served as the Public Services Director for the Dauphin County Library System (DCLS) since 2018. DCLS offers quality library services and year-round events and programs at 8 locations throughout the county. Prior to working for DCLS, Lori served as the Director for the Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library.

Lori holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media Studies from Dowling College, a Master of Library & Information Science from St. John's University, and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Public Administration at Capella University.

Myles Slade-Bowers **Graduate of Bishop McDevitt High School**

A recipient of an educational tax credit scholarship that allowed him to attend and graduate from Bishop McDevitt High School. Myles is a vocal advocate on behalf of the EITC program.

As a junior in high school, Myles travelled to Washington D.C. to testify in a roundtable on school choice with high-level cabinet officials and the President and Vice President of the United States.

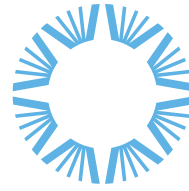


Joshua Quartmon **Parent at The Samuel School**

Joshua Quartmon is the father of a student at The Samuel School.

Chad Weaver **Parent at The Samuel School**

Chad Weaver's daughter attends The Samuel School, an opportunity that may not have been possible without the availability of an educational improvement scholarship.



THE | DAUPHIN COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM
LIBRARY
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DCLS.ORG

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Lori Milach

Public Services Director
Dauphin County Library System

Funding Our Children's Future

My name is Lori Milach, and I am the Public Services Director for the Dauphin County Library System (The Library). The Library is greatly appreciative of the opportunity to share with you the positive impact that the EITC Funds have had on the community.

The Library's mission is to build community and transform lives by connecting people, ideas, and opportunities. The EITC funds help us to fulfill this mission with regards to the youth in our service area. 80% of The Library's funding comes from the state, county, and other guaranteed sources. Therefore, we rely on funds from EITC to deliver support for specific programs that will benefit the youth within our community. Recently, The Library has received funding for our summer reading program and STREAM programming at the McCormick Riverfront Library, our downtown Harrisburg location. STREAM stands for science, technology, reading, art, and mathematics.

Summer is a busy time at The Library, as children are generally out of school. Historically, it has been the responsibility of libraries to help mitigate the summer slide, which is when students lose some of the knowledge they gained during the school year. Our programs not only entertain families during the summer months but enrich their learning and encourage a lifelong love of literacy. The EITC funds allow us to expand on the programs we offer during the summer which in turn gives us a wider reach.

During the summer, we strive to get books into the hands of children and bring families together to laugh, socialize, and form a supportive network with each other. When we distribute giveaway books at outreach events, we're building children's home libraries so they're never without a book to read. Our programs keep kids learning throughout the summer, helping them prepare for the coming school year. Even the simplest craft material gives a child the opportunity to learn and create.

Each year, the majority of the Summer Reading EITC funds go to the Summer Reading Book Parades, which is our summer reading kickoff event, program presenters for entertainment and educational purposes, and incentives to encourage participation throughout the summer.

- The Summer Reading Book Parades occurred in Harrisburg and Halifax brought in 597 participants. The Library alongside nine community partners joined together for these events where we collaboratively gave out over 3,000 books with the support of EITC funds and community partners.
- The funds for program presenters allowed us to offer 61 programs this past summer that brought in 1,407 participants.
- The funds for incentives helped bring in 2,175 participants who read a total of 1,171,028 minutes or and 54,474 books.

Starting in 2022, we began our initiative to increase STREAM learning at the McCormick Riverfront Library. McCormick Riverfront Library is in downtown Harrisburg, where many school children may not have robust school libraries or regular access to new technology in their home. The expansion of STREAM learning at the McCormick Riverfront Library has only been made possible by EITC funds. With this money, we've been able to purchase a wide array of materials which we would usually only dream of, including zSpace machines which are augmented reality computers, and Charlie Carts, which assist with food education and sewing supplies. The zSpace computers have given us the opportunity to let kids dissect specimens, take apart robotic structures, and test the limits of physics on

other planets, all at no cost to local schools. The Charlie Carts will introduce children and teens to topics that include nutrition and units of measuring. Then there's our more artistic programs, such as Sewing Club, which builds on teens' engineering, math, and creative thinking skills. There, teens can make anything they dream up because EITC made it possible for us to purchase materials they wouldn't be able to have at home such as sewing machines, a variety of fabric, and all the notions needed for a successful sewing project. They walk away with skills around understanding and maintaining machinery, careful planning and measurements, and the knowledge to make 3-dimensional objects out of 2-dimensional fabric. Through all of these programs, we are helping our young members develop multiple skills at once, skills that they'll use throughout their lifetime.

Dauphin County is very diverse, and The Library system strives to serve everyone within it by providing exciting and relevant programs. To do that, we need to be responsive to the needs and requests of 8 different branches that serve different communities. The additional funds allow us the flexibility to find the presenters and design the programs that can best fit each unique location. Ultimately, the EITC funds help us to give kids experiences that will last for a lifetime and hopefully increase their knowledge and curiosity about the world around them.

Testimony – Joshua Quartmon

Hello my name is Joshua Quartmon, I am husband to my wife NaQuasha Quartmon and father to my three beautiful children; Jazelle, Nea, and Joshua Jr. Growing up, attending Susquehanna township then attending college at Millersville university where I met my wife, one fact that always stuck with me is access to resources and how important it is to provide the necessary learning environment to thrive for children. This is key to success in and out of the classroom. I can honestly say that I have not always had the resources necessary for me to excel. I was labeled, and as a result my academic career was not as strong as could have been with the right guidance and patience. So after graduating from college, starting a business, and a family, my wife and I vowed that we would strive to give our kids a better opportunity and more resources than we had because we value education. In focusing on quality education, we know that public schools struggle to offer the same level of learning and one on one instruction, as private schools.

The Samuel school is the perfect fit for our kids, from their multi-level classroom to their student to teacher ratio, they provide the patience and encouragement needed to expand the minds of our children. Funding makes it possible for families like mine to attend a school like this. Owning a small business and buying a home, in an unfavorable school district could have life long effects on my children. The Samuel School really tries to makes it affordable for us and my kids are benefiting from the environment and the access to better resources. Leaping in grade level and taking lessons in piano and percussion, our kids have been exposed to tools and material that will ensure their success and keep their faith strong.

Testimony – Chad Weaver

I appreciate the scholarship because it helps our daughter to get access to early education that we might not be able to afford otherwise, and it's flexible giving our family the option to choose the preschool that works best for our child.

Thanks,
Chad Weaver