



## **STATEMENT**

Parents want the best education for their children. Whether a child lives in a rural or urban district and no matter what type of school they attend, one thing is clear: the quality of education should be equal. The Elevate Oklahoma's Kids coalition values quality education and supports **SB 407** to increase the tax credit cap on donations to scholarship granting organizations (SGOs) and education improvement grant organizations (EIGOs) — because **all** Oklahoma children deserve to live up to their potential.

## **KEY MESSAGES**

- All children deserve the best education, no matter their learning style. Supporting scholarship and grant programs gets the state closer to ensuring all students at all schools have the chance to succeed.
- Passing SB 407 will increase the tax credit cap on donations to SGOs and EIGOs and help all Oklahoma students, whatever type of school they attend.
- ZIP codes should not dictate destiny. SGOs ensure students are able to attend the school that's right for them if their neighborhood public school isn't the best fit. EIGOs contribute funding to rural and certain suburban schools, ensuring smaller districts have the support they need.
- While many children thrive in a public school environment, others need specialized education or individualized attention. For families unable to afford their school of choice, SGOs are true life-savers.
- According to a 2018 fiscal impact study, Oklahoma's state budget was projected to save \$1.51 for every \$1 of tax credit issued to donors during the 2018-19 school year. Saving the state money while helping thousands of lower-income families afford the school which best suits their kids' needs is a win-win.
- Over the last two years, the tax credit cap has resulted in some donors not receiving the full tax credit they were due, potentially deterring them from making larger donations. Passing SB 407 and increasing the cap will encourage more donations, in turn helping more kids at more schools.