

Take Action Now to Demand Equity for Catholic Schools

State lawmakers and agency officials have failed to fully reimburse Catholic schools for the costs incurred in complying with state imposed mandates and participating in state programs. This funding is critical in helping control the cost of tuition. To make matters worse, state lawmakers imposed a new "payroll" tax on religious schools located within the 12 counties in and around New York City in order to bail out the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). As a result, religious and independent schools are owed approximately \$243 million -- an amount equivalent to approximately \$500 per student. Meanwhile, public schools are being fully reimbursed for the same tax!

We need you to act immediately to urge lawmakers to provide the funding that is owed and that is desperately needed to preserve Catholic schools. Go [HERE](http://capwiz.com/nyscatholicconference/issues/alert/?alertid=14670716) <http://capwiz.com/nyscatholicconference/issues/alert/?alertid=14670716> to send a pre-written, fully editable email message to Gov. Paterson and your Senator and Assembly representative. Be sure to edit the letter to include any personal stake you may have in religious education: Tell your lawmakers if you are a principal, teacher or Catholic school parent or grandparent.