

**New Salem-Almont School District #49**

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Brian Christopherson, Superintendent  
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Monica Reiner-Pletan, Board President  
Brian Olson, High School principal

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**"To ensure that each child achieves his/her full potential through student-centered practices."**

March 13, 2023

Senate Education Committee,

RE: SB1532

SB 1532 is schedule to be heard by the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. As the Superintendent of New Salem-Almont Schools, awarding private schools 24 million dollars of public tax funds and not having an accountability system in place is simply wrong. Awarding any public money to schools that do not submit audits to the state and do not have open meeting laws is wrong. Taxpayers can request any and all financial reports from public schools; we are answerable for the money we receive. SB1532 provides money with no accountability.

At New Salem-Almont and all other public schools, we are required to take all students in our district, regardless of the cost of the tuition. I currently have two students with high needs that I have to outsource which costs our local taxpayers up to 6x's more than a regular education student. Private schools can hand pick students, they do not need a reason to turn down students. If public schools could take this approach, I would save well over \$300,000 dollars in salaries alone, but that is not what we are tasked to do.

If you feel private schools should receive public tax funds, they need to be held to the same standards as public schools. Vote "do not pass" on SB1532 unless you are willing to hold private schools accountable.

Sincerely,



Brian Christopherson  
Superintendent  
New Salem-Almont School District #49