

New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops



Archdiocese of Santa Fe, Most Reverend John C. Wester
Diocese of Gallup, Most Reverend James S. Wall
Diocese of Las Cruces, Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino
NMCCB Executive Director, Allen Sánchez
Associate Director, Rebecca Lucero

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March 30, 2026

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
New Mexico State Capitol
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

We, the Catholic Bishops of New Mexico, write to respectfully urge the State of New Mexico to opt into the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit (EFTC) program.

This program represents a significant opportunity to expand educational access and opportunity for students across our state, particularly those in our underserved communities. By allowing taxpayers to receive a federal tax credit for contributions to scholarship-granting organizations, the EFTC would unlock new private resources to support student learning and educational excellence.

Under this program, donations can support students in both private and public schools, ensuring that the benefits are broad-based and inclusive of all families and communities across New Mexico, and the potential impact is substantial. If just 1% of eligible New Mexicans participated, the program would generate an estimated \$3,821,328 in new donations for education in our state. At 15% participation, that number grows to \$57,319,920. These are entirely new, voluntary private dollars that would directly support students and schools without placing additional strain on the state budget.

However, if New Mexico does not opt in, there is a meaningful downside. New Mexicans may still choose to contribute to the program and receive the federal tax credit, but those funds could flow to scholarship organizations operating in other states. In that scenario, millions of dollars generated by New Mexican taxpayers would leave our state and support students elsewhere, while our own schools and families would see no benefit.

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By opting in, New Mexico ensures that these resources remain here, supporting our students, strengthening both public and private schools, and investing in the future of our communities. We believe this is a prudent and forward-looking step that can significantly enhance educational opportunities across New Mexico.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to the well-being of our children and families. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Most Reverend James Wall
Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino

On Behalf of the Bishops,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Sánchez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' at the end.

Allen Sánchez
Executive Director
New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops