

# School Choice Impact upon Parochial School Funding Models

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## **What I did:**

In 2011 school choice became law in Indiana and the farthest reaching tuition voucher program in the country took effect. In this project, I led our board through the process of implementing a funding model that will give our school the best opportunity to remain financial viable as we adopted state vouchers.

## **What did I learn?**

Christian education is under threat from every direction. While vouchers may seem to provide an answer to one problem, tuition for students with financial need, it creates the potential for several other threats to immerge. Our board had to struggle to find answers to questions that may drive our ministry for years to come.

What is more, though this process I learned about my leadership style and the some of the patterns of my own behavior. The skills a school leader must have at his/her disposal are more diverse than ever and no one person can do it all. I have had to recognize that reality and begin to lead differently.

## **What difference did it make?**

Emmanuel - St. Michael has become a “choice” school. In our first year 32 of our students qualified and were enrolled with a full or partial state funded voucher. This next fall we expect that number to triple. This presents a major shift in the source of tuition revenue and puts to challenge some long-held traditional sources. One of our major challenges is to move forward, but yet be prepared if, and when, changes to the voucher prohibit our participation. Our boards focus has been to create a sustainable and healthy ministry funding model.