

# House Bill 1800 Fact Sheet

1. **Special Needs Students:** Private and Catholic schools in the past did not enroll many special needs students. Times have changed. Today, private and Catholic schools enroll special needs students with academic, physical, social and emotional needs. As the special needs population has grown over the last decade, so has the enrollment of special needs students into private and Catholic schools. Below are the local numbers from IU 15 (Harrisburg & Surrounding Area):

- 31 private schools in IU 15 receive math, reading, counseling, social work and language arts services. These services are provided utilizing both state (Act 89) and federal funding (Title I, II, III, IV, V and VI).
- Over 3,950 private school students receive one of the types of services mentioned above through IU 15.

As you can see private and Catholic schools enroll thousands of students that have special needs. The myth that only public schools enroll special needs students is not accurate.

2. **Certified Teachers:** Over 90% of Catholic school teachers in the Diocese of Harrisburg have a valid PA teaching certificate. They must follow all the same procedures public school teachers are held to, along with following the teachings of the Catholic Church.

3. **Test Scores:** Catholic school students outperform their peers in public schools on national tests. PSAT & SAT test scores reveal that private and Catholic school students scored higher in math, reading and reading composition than public school students. In addition, all Catholic school students are required to take the IOWA national test.

- Diocesan Performance Profile – Spring 2019 – Harrisburg  
National percentile rank of each grade level by student:

<b>Grade Level:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>
Reading:	66%	74%	63%	71%	69%	79%
Math:	N/A	69%	65%	66%	67%	74%

As you can see the national test scores for the students in the Diocese of Harrisburg are very good. These test scores also include special needs students.

4. **Accountability:**

- All Catholic schools are Middle States accredited
- Many have been designated Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education
- All students in Catholic schools fulfill their statutory compulsory school attendance requirements in schools that are registered by the State
- All school buildings must meet all State and local fire, health, safety and sanitation requirements
- Our 7 Catholic high schools offer; 51 AP courses, 177 clubs or activities and 118 sports programs
- 99% of the students in Catholic schools successfully graduate. 90% of those students enter a four-year college or university. 6% of the graduates enter either a community college or trade school. 2% of the graduates enter the military and 1% of the graduates immediately enter the workforce
- In addition, all Catholic schools have one-on-one ultimate accountability to the parents who choose to enroll their children therein