MEMORANDUM

TO:

The Honorable Members of the State Board of Education

FROM:

Janet Barresi

DATE:

October 27, 2011

SUBJECT:

Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarships for Students with Disabilities

Approval is requested for Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, an Oklahoma Conference of Catholic Schools accrediting Association (OCCSAA) and North Central Accreditation private school, wishing to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities program.

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September 26, 2011

Superintendent Janet Barresi Oklahoma State Department of Education 2500 North Lincoln, Room 121 Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599

Re: Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship Program

Dear Superintendent Barresi:

Established in 1950, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School is a college preparatory Catholic Archdiocesan high school serving 722 students in grades 9-12 who live in the Oklahoma City metro and outlying areas. The school is accredited by the Oklahoma State Department of Education and North Central Accreditation Association. The school enjoys a diverse student body without regard for ethnic origin, religious preference or socioeconomic background and is very interested in participating in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities program.

Established in 1984, our REACH Program, an acronym for Realizing Excellence, Achieving Competency in High School, serves 30 students annually and offers support, guidance and remedial methods to qualifying students with diagnosed learning differences. It is staffed with a learning difference specialist, and two additional degreed teachers. Students in our REACH Program attend regular classes and are expected to complete their regular course work with accommodations and modifications specific to their learning need. They use the same textbook and materials used in the classroom and teachers are notified about each individual student's learning needs.

Our classrooms are staffed by qualified teachers and all our faculty and administrators are certified by the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Of our sixty-seven certified teachers and administrators, sixty-one have been on our staff for three years or longer. Bishop McGuinness works in conjunction with the Oklahoma County Health Department and the Oklahoma City Fire Department to ensure all health and safety codes are followed.

The majority of the school budget is tuition driven. We have a Work Grant Program designed to offer tuition assistance to qualifying students. This program is funded by generous donors and patrons who believe in the school's mission of developing the whole person and forming each of our students to be a "person for others." Any additional help offered to our families through participation in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship program would be considered a blessing.

If you need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at (405) 842-6638.

Most sincerely,

David L. Morton Principal

cc: Sister Catherine Powers, C.N.D.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools