

Please support SB 352 to help the nonprofit Tucker Maxon School. For over 72 years, Tucker MAXon has been transforming the lives of children who are deaf and hard of hearing. The school does amazing work, but the antiquated heating system is 65 years old and constantly in need of costly repairs (over \$12,000 alone in repairs this Winter). The old system wastes fuel and money, as it is only 71% efficient. That money would be better spent funding the Early Intervention or Financial Aid programs that benefit children with hearing loss who come from low income families.

The school receives no State or Federal funding, and must fund raise the half of its operating budget that doesn't come from tuition. 84% of students come from low-to-moderate income backgrounds, so Tucker Maxon is not your average private school.

And the work they do is incredible. Whereas, on average, only 8% of deaf people graduate college, and most read at a only 3rd grade level, 87% of Tucker Maxon students go on to college, 77% graduate, and 23% go on to get advanced degrees. Studies show that intervening early in a deaf child's life saves \$400,000 in special education costs over the course of their education. This school changes lives, and is worthy of this one-time capital investment by the State.

Thank you,

Jennifer Hoofard, PhD