

**Citizens for
Educational
Freedom**

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**Join the fight for educational choice for ALL children in ALL schools.
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JESUS WAS A TEACHER

Jesus was the most exalted teacher the world has ever known. He was recognized as "The Teacher", an honored profession in His time and in centuries before Him. Teachers belong to the profession that molds civilization through the students. CEF calls on our teachers to respect your noble calling by defending freedom in education. Catholic teachers should not be forced to teach in godless government (public schools) to receive an adequate salary. Catholic teachers can help parents and students to recognize that the public school monopoly of all education tax money is the result of unjust school laws.

Catholic teachers have a special mission, conferred on them by God Himself, to teach His children to hold fast to our Catholic Faith. We offer the following excerpt from the ENCYCLICAL of POPE PIUS XI on the CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OF YOUTH:

"The proper and immediate end of Christian education is to cooperate with divine grace in forming the true and perfect Christian, that is, to form Christ Himself in those regenerated by Baptism, according to the emphatic expression of the Apostle: 'My little children, of whom I am in labor again, until Christ be formed in you.'"

For precisely this reason, Christian education takes in the whole aggregate of human life, physical and spiritual, intellectual and moral, individual, domestic and social, not with a view of reducing it in any way, but in order to elevate, regulate and perfect it, in accordance with the example and teaching of Christ."

U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS ENDORSE EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

*The U.S. Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter on the U.S. Economy contains this excellent statement:
"Section 343. The Church has always held that the first task and responsibility for education lies in the hands of parents: they have the right to choose freely the schools and other means necessary to educate their children in the faith. The Church also has consistently held that public authorities must ensure that public subsidies for the education of children are allocated so that parents can freely choose to exercise this right without incurring unjust burdens. This parental right should not be taken from them. We call again for equitable sharing in public benefits for those parents who choose private and religious schools for their children."*

This noble mission of the Catholic teacher cannot be achieved in the public (government) school. Therefore Catholic citizens, parents, teachers, students, and taxpayers must unite to reform unjust public school tax laws which discriminate against parochial school children.



School Choice For Catholic Teachers



CITIZENS FOR EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

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Citizens for Educational Freedom

CEF IS a national, non-profit corporation founded in 1959, with headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

Our membership consists of citizens and supporting groups of every race, color, creed and political party.

Our purpose is to promote the primary rights of parents to freedom of choice, justice and quality in education for all.

We support policies which will allocate a fair share of educational tax dollars for each child to take to the school their parents choose, while protecting parents, teachers, and private schools from undue government regulation and control.

Educational Freedom means:

- *Parental Choice in Education*
- *Freedom of Choice for Teachers*
- *A Fair Share of Education Tax Funds For All School Children*
- *Taxpayer Savings through Competition and Utilization of Private Schools*
- *Protection of Religious Liberty*

FAQ: How would school choice improve the quality of Education?...

Public schools are now running the only government subsidized game in town, like the Postal Service used to do; and like the Postal Service before UPS and Federal Express, they have no reason to improve the quality of their educational service. As long as money and students are guaranteed, and families cannot afford a Catholic School, public schools have nothing to fear.

Rights of Teachers and Parents

Concerns of Catholic Teachers

If a voucher system passes and takes effect, you may envision that your student load would increase. You envision more government red tape and meddling. You envision that your school will have to succumb to politically correct student recruitment, even curriculum control

Government red tape and government meddling is a legitimate concern. It requires intelligently worded legislation. CEF envisions legislation which protects private schools from state interference or regulation and has an "Opt out" clause which allows schools to not accept voucher students. As a practical matter, we are dealing with a monopoly situation already. 90% of all schools are totally government controlled. The remaining 10%, — the private schools — are 90% controlled. Private schools and private school teachers must teach within certain guidelines. The students must conform enough to get into government controlled colleges. Under a school voucher system NO CHILD WOULD BE LEFT OUT. As a practical matter, vouchers would increase school choice and diversity. The ability of the government to micro-manage a diverse school environment would become increasingly difficult.

Private school teachers also have something to look forward to. Now their salaries are lower than public school teachers and they are limited by the ability of parents to pay. If vouchers passed, private school teacher salaries would increase because parents would be able to pay the tuition without double taxation.

THE CHILD DOES NOT BELONG TO THE STATE

Parents have the primary right and responsibility for the education of their children. Therefore, they must be able to select either government or non-government operated schools for their children regardless of religious orientation, without financial penalty or government interference.

"Liberty...excludes any general power of the state to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the state." Pierce v. Society of Sisters, U.S. Supreme Court (1925)

PARENTAL CHOICE IS A HUMAN RIGHT

From the Declaration of Universal Human Rights (Article 26, Section 3): *"Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that should be given to their children"*

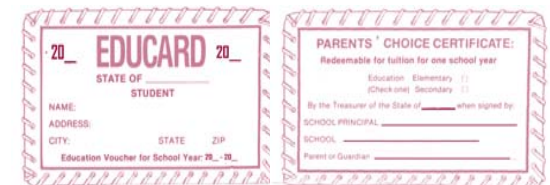
History of Public School Laws

The unjust public school laws which deny educational benefits to private and religious school children were enacted in the states (not in the federal constitution) in the 1870's in a period of anti-Catholic bigotry. Proposed by Pres. U.S. Grant and Congressman James Blaine of Maine, they were born in bigotry and preserved in prejudice until now. Called the "Blaine Amendments" these discriminatory laws are "Hate" laws and should be removed from our states. Religious discrimination is just as shameful as racial discrimination. Catholic teachers can perform a noble service to our nation by taking action to bring about a new birth of freedom in education in America.

The time for change is NOW!

In June, 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the public voucher system in Cleveland, settling the Constitutional objection raised by critics. This landmark decision opens the door for school choice across America!

CEF believes the most direct method to restore parents' rights and reap the benefits of competition among schools is by creating a school voucher program. Each child would be issued a card similar to this:



The Educard would be redeemable for tuition at the parents' choice of school, government, parochial or independent. The Educard value would reflect average expenditures per student at the local public school.