

# School Choice News



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## CITIZENS FOR EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM CELEBRATES ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The 50th Anniversary of the founding of Citizens for Educational Freedom in St. Louis in 1959 was celebrated with a great gathering of enthusiastic supporters from throughout the nation. The reception preceding the gala banquet was a fun time. School Choice supporters, old friends and new were like one big family. School choice is a “family affair”; for children and their parents: freedom and justice.

There were many VIP's in attendance and so many that really everyone was a VIP as they cheered for school choice in America. The featured speaker was Joseph Bast, President of the Heartland Institute, who delivered a brilliant tribute to the vision and accomplishments of CEF “Past, Present and Future.” The audience was really aroused by his call for action to make school choice a reality for American families. Their enthusiasm was electrifying. Bast was followed by Mark Mittleman, CEF Board Member, who demonstrated that we cannot afford the outrageous cost of the public schools. St Louis Bishop, Most Rev. Robert Hermann, gave the invocation. Two local television and radio personalities- Charlie Brennan and Wendy Wiese acted as MC's with much wit and appreciation for the cause. Herman Kriegshausner, Chairman of the Educational Freedom Foundation, welcomed the Banquet guests and presented the Citizens for Educational Freedom Award to founders, Mae and Martin Duggan. The Duggans accepted their award from Herman with joyful appreciation, and called on the banquet guests to join with them to promote school choice now, in every state. Senator Jane Cunningham, a strong supporter of school choice, presented a Missouri Senate Proclamation in honor of founders Mae and Martin Duggan. Two Irish Tenors, James Martin and Floyd Gilliam sang Irish songs to end the celebration on a high note.



Mae Duggan, Joseph Bast, Martin Duggan and Wendy Wiese

Go to our website ([www.educational-freedom.org](http://www.educational-freedom.org)) to listen to Joseph Bast's inspiring tribute.



## THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

*There is more than one human right...*

*Human  
Rights  
Week*

As the world celebrates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights this December 10, 2009, once again Citizens for Educational Freedom calls attention to Article 26, Sec. 1-3 of this important HUMAN FREEDOM document:

“Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, in the elementary and fundamental stages. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality..” (3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.”

While many nations, even parts of Russia, now provide their parents a choice of private or religious schools as well as the public (government) schools with a share of school funds for all children, the United States continues its old 19<sup>th</sup> century system of discrimination against the private school children. Half of our states even deny safe transportation to the children who attend private and parochial schools. Sadly, our President and national leaders call on other nations to protect human rights, while we in the United States deny this fundamental human right of families. And yes, Article 16 of this same Human Rights Declaration states: “The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society, and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”

## STATE NEWS

**NEW YORK** - The New York State legislature has levied a special payroll tax on all businesses, including schools, to help the Metropolitan Transportation Authority fund its deficit. However, the legislation calls for the public schools to be reimbursed the cost of the tax. Catholic schools and other private schools will not receive the reimbursement, costing each of the schools thousands of dollars. This is money that the parents and schools cannot afford, and it is in addition to their own private tuition they pay to support the schools that are denied a share of school tax money.



Edward Scharfenberger  
Chairman CEF State  
Chapter - New York

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York City has protested against the action of the New York State legislature for the latest act of discrimination against private and religious schools. Archbishop Dolan pointed out that the Catholic schools in New York educate thousands of school children at no cost to the taxpayers, but they should not have to bear the burden of this new tax while the public schools are relieved of this burden. The families, the Church, and the teachers pay the full cost of these fine schools, and they should not be forced to pay a tax when the public schools are not. Discrimination of any kind, religious or racial, etc. is in violation of our Constitution. ( Read the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.)

Ed Scharfenberger, our CEF Chapter Chairman in New York, also sent us word of the legislature's action. He is calling on all good citizens to let their legislators and the Governor know of their disapproval and outrage at this shameful, unfair tax that hurts helpless school children. It is the same old story of school tax funds denied to the children who attend private (non-government) schools. The public school tax laws were **born in bigotry and preserved in prejudice**. It is long past due that good citizens act to repeal these unjust laws. All the frantic efforts to improve the public schools will fail until their monopoly is broken, and parents and students can freely choose from private as well as public schools.

Your Citizens for Educational Freedom chapters in New York, headed by Ed Scharfenberger and Frank Russo, would like to hear from you. You may contact them at their email: jscharf2@optonline.net or fjrussosjr@cs.com You may reach them at their address: Ed Scharfenberger, 6 Henry Close, Warwick, NY 10990, (845)986-5591 or Frank Russo, #7 Shoreview Road, Port Washington, NY 11050, (516)767-9179.

**ARIZONA** - The Arizona Supreme Court has ruled that the Corporate School Tuition Organization Tax Credit Program is constitutional. The Court denied a request to hear an appeal of the March 2009 decision in *Green v Garriott*, that upheld the program's constitutionality. The usual suspects who sue to take free choice scholarships from poor children

were the Arizona School Board Association and the American Civil Liberties Union.

This decision marks the second time that the Arizona Supreme Court has affirmed the Tuition Tax Credit program. The children were defended by the Institute for Justice and the Alliance for School Choice and Advocates for School Choice. Chairman Betsy DeFoss, praised the decision and called it a victory for needy children

**FLORIDA** - This state has led the way in providing tax-funded scholarships for children with disabilities. The program began in 1999 and was expanded in 2001. It now serves more than 20,000 students. Florida also has a Tax Credit for Scholarship Funding Organizations which began in 2002. It now serves more than 23,000 students.

**LOUISIANA** - has two programs which aid families who choose private schools for their children. One is the tax deduction up to \$5,000 at 50% of tuition. This state also provides for 1,248 students who attend schools in the New Orleans and Jefferson Parish districts to receive voucher-scholarships for the private schools of the parent's choice.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - While the D.C. Tuition Scholarship program is successfully aiding the education of nearly 2,000 school children, the Obama administration and the Democrat controlled Congress have stopped the aid to the children in an attempt to shut down the program. Sen. Lieberman and many Republicans are working to save it. To show their strong support for the children's opportunity scholarships, thousands of parents and supporters demonstrated in DC in a civil disobedience protest march on Congress. CEF supports these good citizens as they try to defend their children. Kevin Chavous, chair of Democrats for Education Reform, spoke at a Save School Choice rally in Washington, D.C. in September. Chavous is a former member of the City Council in D.C. He recommends a 30-minute video titled: LET ME RISE. It is available on the Voices of School Choice website :[www.voicesofschoolchoice.org](http://www.voicesofschoolchoice.org).

Chavous called on the Obama Administration to end their discrimination against private school children. In speaking to Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, Chavous asked him to include all American school children in all federal aid to education - not just public (government) schools.

**OHIO** - The Autism Scholarship has proven to be a popular option for Ohio parents. The more than 1,500 students approved to use the scholarship this year represent a 50 percent increase since the 2007-2008 school year.

The growth of the scholarship has been fueled by both the increase in the number of students being diagnosed with autism (this has doubled in the last 5 years) and the increase in the number of families seeking alternatives outside of traditional public schools.

The Autism Scholarship provides up to \$20,000 per year for parents to use to pay for private educational services. It serves as an option to families dissatisfied with the services their child received in their public school.

## Editorial

### Fair Federal Aid For ALL School Children

As we near the closing of the year 2009 and the celebration of the fifty years since the founding of Citizens for Educational Freedom, the first school choice organization in this nation, once again we must recall the events that led the founders to take action. It was the "perfect storm." First was the introduction by the NEA, the public school teachers unions, of the first federal aid to education bill. The second was the announcement by the American Catholic bishops that they were planning in the near future to close either their high schools or several grades of the elementary Catholic schools. All this was too much for Catholic parents to accept. We declared that we, the parents, would fight for our rights to educate our children in God-centered schools - not godless, government schools.

The public school laws in almost all fifty states were "Catch 22"; the laws for education were compulsory attendance and compulsory taxation for public schools only. So, we realized that in order to be free to choose, these unjust laws must be repealed. In one month, our little group had incorporated as Citizens for Educational Freedom and started grassroots actions to stop the NEA's first federal aid to education bill. We actually held them off for six years! Finally, in 1965 the ESEA passed the Congress. It included all school children both public and private - mandating "equal benefits" for all. That policy has been followed until now when the Obama Administration and the Democrats in Congress left out our private school children, giving all federal school aid to the public (government) schools. So much for "equality" by the Obama Administration.

### "Public Option" For Education

Millions of Americans are protesting to President Obama and the Democrat controlled Congress against the "public option" for health care. Actually, public option means government option. Citizens have good reason to object to the "public option."

The American education system has for over a century imposed the "public option" on our children. The public school is the public option tax-supported schools in competition with private schools who receive no tax funding - paid for by its customers, the parents and teachers. So it has become an education monopoly. And parents must pay both school taxes and tuition for their choice of a private school.

### Obama Appoints Religious Bigot Lynn

Barry Lynn, who heads the notoriously anti-Catholic bigotry organization, Americans United, was appointed by President Obama to the recently renamed White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Today it is known as the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. It was originally established by President George W. Bush to include religious organizations to enable them to cooperate in community betterment programs. Barry Lynn is a poor choice to assist religious groups.



### Final Notice Student School Choice Essay Contest



**Entry Deadline - December 18, 2009**

Win a Scholarship Grant to the middle school or high school of your choice. Enter now. The contest entry date runs through December 18, 2009. The Educational Freedom Foundation will award six scholarships to the winners of the essay contest.

The Topic: Why America Needs School Choice.

The Middle School Scholarship Awards are;

First Prize - \$500  
Second Prize - \$250  
Third Prize - \$100

The High School Scholarship Awards are;

First Prize - \$1000  
Second Prize - \$750  
Third Prize - \$500

Go to our CEF website ([www.educational-freedom.org](http://www.educational-freedom.org)) to download an entry form or call the CEF office, (636) 686-7101



### Final Notice

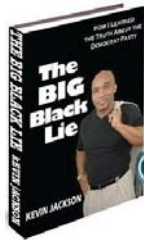


### *We Can't Do It Unless You Dues It*

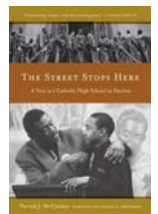
#### Recommended Reading

THE BIG BLACK LIE, by Kevin Jackson. Offers some compelling reasons for parents need for school choice. The family life that Jackson describes is most interesting to those who care about helping the children of our black citizens.

For information : Contact Gina Loudon, 314-922-1901 or [drginaloudon@gmail.com](mailto:drginaloudon@gmail.com)



THE STREET STOPS HERE, by Patrick McCloskey: A first-hand account of his observations of a fine Catholic school in New York City. A powerful model for those seeking to reform and improve the present public school monopoly system. With meager funds, this school educates children to become responsible and productive citizens. Learn the secret of the school's success. University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 2008. \$27.50 hard cover.



THE SILENT CRISIS DESTROYING AMERICA'S BRIGHTEST MINDS, by Sharon Rose Sugar. This book about the failure of the public (government) schools is a blockbuster exposing the really horrible effect our godless government schools have on our children. But CEF has called for a dual - not government monopoly system of education. Competition will improve the whole system. Tree of Knowledge Press, 2009. \$24.99 paperback.



## CHEATING YOUR CHILDREN : OBAMA STYLE

When the "stimulus" tax money was given out for education by President Obama, he made sure that not one penny went to aid the children in the private and parochial schools. All the millions of dollars : \$5 BILLION! went to public (government) schools only. Evidently, as far as President Obama is concerned, the children in private schools do not exist. The Congress is aware of their existence because they made sure that a clause in the Omnibus Give Away Bill stated that no money would benefit private school children.

Just in case someone tells you that federal aid to the education of non-government school children is a "violation of the separation of church and state", just tell them that this issue was settled in 1965 through the efforts of Citizens for Educational Freedom. At that time, 1959, the NEA introduced the first federal aid to education: the Murray-Metcalf Bill. It denied any funds to the children in private and parochial schools. CEF stopped it from passage for six years and then managed to pass the ESEA which mandated that all school children, both private and public, be treated on an equal basis. It stated that both should be given equal benefits in the program. This fairness policy has been followed since 1965 and it is still the federally mandated policy, however, the Obama administration has chosen to "break" this fair law by giving all his education stimulus tax money to the monopoly public schools.

### *GIVE PARENTS A CHOICE* *GIVE CHILDREN A CHANCE*

For those citizens who wish to protest this discrimination against our school children please use our suggested letter and send a picture of your children.

Mail it to; President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Or you may call President Obama: 202-456-1414

Since the Congress, both House and Senate, passed the "stimulus" bill, they should hear from you also. Mail a letter to your Representative and Senators.

U. S Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
  
U.S. Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D,C 20510

If you wish to call your Senators and Representatives, call: 202-224-3121.

**DEFEND YOUR CHILDREN**  
It is your tax money,  
it should be your choice.

## Missouri State News

Rep. Cynthia Davis has filed two bills for the 2010 session of the Missouri Legislature. The first bill offers a real bargain for the taxpayers because it creates a tax credit of \$1,000 per year for those who do not use the public school system. The state of Missouri spends an average of \$9,338 per pupil. If we can spare ourselves that expense by offering a mere \$1,000, there is a net savings of \$8,338 per pupil. Multiplying that by all the children who might use this, the savings to the taxpayers could easily be in the millions.

The second bill provides a straight tax deduction off your Missouri income taxes for tuition. This provides a small benefit for those who pay their own way. This deduction is for all tuition - Kindergarten through college.

The state of Missouri also has a virtual school program. Some children need to learn at home with a computer for a variety of physical, emotional, and psychological reasons. Unfortunately, Governor Jay Nixon has chosen to withhold funding for the virtual school program, which means the suspension of these schools in the middle of the school year. It is stressful to disrupt the educational program in mid-stream. The decision to cut virtual schools is not in the best interest of the children. We question why the governor decided to cut this program, since virtual schools cost the state an average of \$4,800 per pupil. If those same students are forced into our local school districts, it could easily double the expense.

An Initiative Petition has been filed and approved for circulation by the Missouri Secretary of State to obtain signatures to place a Constitutional Amendment on the November 2, 2010, General Election Ballot. This Petition, if approved by a simple majority of the voters, would provide for a 50% Income Tax Credit for Individual and Corporate donations/contributions toward IRS approved not-for-profit charitable and educational corporations, institutions, organizations and foundations.

Circulation of petition forms begin during December 2009. All signatures must be returned to the Secretary of State's Office by May 1, 2010. Missouri's 2009 population is approximately 5.9 million. There are approximately one million students attending K-12 schools or 1/6th of the state's population. Of this, 900,000 attend government (taxpayer supported) public schools and approximately 100,000 attend religious and private schools

Homeschooling in Missouri is growing stronger every year. When Sen. Charlie Shields sponsored his education bill, SB 291, 3,000 homeschoolers showed up at the state capital to protest restrictions on homeschooling. The bill was revised to protect homeschoolers. However, the Shields education bill still contains many restrictions on parents in the education of their children. The bill is a classic example of the power the public (government) school has over your children. Private schools protect your children and offer a God-centered curriculum for their enrichment. Parents should have a share of their school taxes to enable them to choose good private schools for their children.

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

It is with great sorrow and outrage that I address you at this time in regard to your heartless discrimination against millions of American children who attend private and religious schools. You rushed to hand out billions of federal tax dollars to the public schools which have a monopoly of all school tax funds, local, state and now federal.

Until you became President, all federal aid money for education was mandated since 1965 to be given out as equal benefits to both private and public (government) school children. This fairness doctrine has been public policy on the federal level since the first federal aid to education bill was enacted in 1965. No discrimination against one group of school children was allowed until you became President. Sadly, you violated this fairness policy by denying even one dollar to our unfortunate private (non-government) school children while public schools received millions of tax dollars on top of the billions they now have in their treasuries.

I (we) call upon you to correct this injustice, this un-American act of discrimination against our precious children who are being cheated because they do not attend government (public) schools. Give them their fair share now!

President Obama, your way is not the American way to improve education for school children. Parents' free choice with a share of their tax dollars is the American way. So, President Obama, learn the first lesson in Citizenship in these United States. Give liberty and justice to all, yes, even our private (non-government) school children. I await your response to this appeal on behalf of our private school children.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_