

School Choice News



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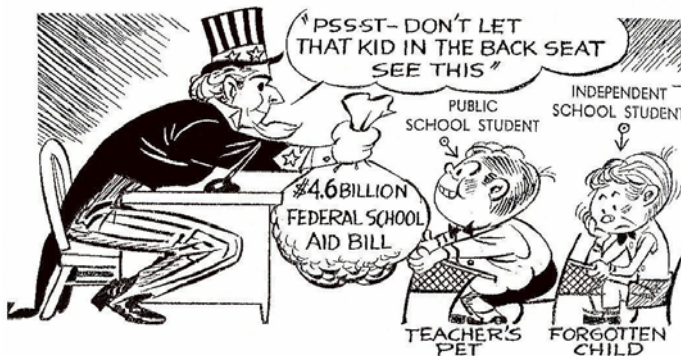
CEF TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Citizens for Educational Freedom, your pioneer school choice organization founded in 1959, will celebrate its Golden Anniversary this year with a gala banquet on October 20, 2009, in St. Louis where CEF was founded.

Fifty years ago, it was Citizens for Educational Freedom that stood alone against the National Education Association's first federal aid to education bill: The Murray-Metcalf Act. It was so discriminatory that it actually counted ALL the children of school age and then COUNTED OUT the children in private schools. When the money was given out to the states, the private school money was added to the public schools' millions.



TEACHER'S PET BILL -- 1963



Well, CEF founders...just eight of us, said: "No Way!" We actually held off the NEA, with its millions of dollars of funding, for six years. We started out with eight people and \$40.00. Probably the most effective action that CEF used against the NEA's federal aid bill was our postcard campaign. CEF printed a half million (500,000) "Teachers' Pet" postcards to send to Congress and President Kennedy. As the postcards came off the press, we addressed the first one to President John F. Kennedy, who strongly supported the NEA's unfair federal aid bill. We flooded Congress with the rest. Nationwide, our grassroots supporters rushed them off to the Senators and Congressmen who strongly supported the NEA's unfair federal aid bill. CEF stopped the National Education Association (NEA) bill for discriminatory federal aid for six years. Finally, under President Johnson, the

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was passed in 1965. The bill mandated equal education benefits (aid) to all school children, private and public. The administration of the program was given to the public school administrators. Yet, the equal benefit clause of the ESEA is still in effect as the federal education policy.

Sadly, now our new President, Barack Obama, is ignoring the clear mandate that federal aid to education should be given to all children in both private and public schools on an equal basis. Obama has given more than \$5 billion to the public schools in the "stimulus" funds. The bill authorizing the education "stimulus" includes the shameful clause that not one dollar of his education handout shall go to help private school children.

SEN. LIEBERMAN INTRODUCES BILL TO CONTINUE D.C. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Senator Joseph Lieberman, with co-sponsors Senator Diane Feinstein, and Senator Robert Byrd introduced a bipartisan re-authorization bill for the D.C. voucher (scholarship) program. As reported by Alliance for School Choice, the bill would re-authorize and strengthen the D.C. Scholarship Program for five years. This move provides continued hope for thousands of low-income families in the District of Columbia who seek equal access to a quality education.

Under Senator Lieberman's bill, the program would be preserved and strengthened significantly. The Lieberman bill would increase scholarship amounts to \$9,000 for K-8 students, and \$11,000 for high school students indexing the scholarship amounts to inflation. While these amounts remain significantly below the amounts for the D.C. Public Schools, they provide the necessary increases to account for inflation over the past five years.

To date, the program has allowed low-income children to receive up to \$7,500 in scholarships to attend the private schools of their parents' choice. Since its inception in 2004, the program has served more than 3,000 residents-primarily extremely low-income children. More than 8,000 families have applied for scholarships, demonstrating overwhelming demand.

In May, a similar bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Minority Leader Rep. John Boehner (R-OH). Mr. Boehner is a longtime champion of the scholarship program and has spearheaded efforts in the House to preserve the program for low-income District families.

"Today's action is a strong step in the right direction for low-income D.C. families," said Kevin Chavous, the former D.C. City Councilman who is leading the fight to save the Opportunity Scholarship Program. "We are pleased to see a strong, bipartisan effort to provide continued opportunity and hope to D.C. children through the extension and strengthening of the Opportunity Scholarship Program."

FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION SURVEY REPORTS EIGHT OF TEN VOTERS WOULD LEAVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As Kentucky students head back to the classroom, thousands of parents continue to be denied a choice about where to educate their children. More than eight of ten Kentucky likely voters would send their children to private schools, charter schools, virtual schools, or educate their children in a home school setting if they could, according to the survey released today by several state and national organizations. Eighty-six percent of residents polled would opt for schools other than traditional public schools, according to the survey.

The survey was conducted in March by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, an Indianapolis-based school reform advocacy organization on behalf of seven state and national educational and policy groups. "Rich or poor, Republican or Democrat, rural or urban, the results are clear: voters want more options in the education of their children," said Paul DiPerna, Director of Partner Services for the Friedman Foundation. "The support for school choice Concepts - such as tax credits, vouchers, and charter schools—cuts across numerous demographic groups. At the same time, there is widespread discontent in that only one of four rate the state's public school system as good or excellent."

Here are the results of the question "If it were your decision and you could select any type of school, what type of school would you select in order to obtain the best education for your child?": 49% would choose private schools, 23% would choose home schooling, 11% would choose charter schools, 14% would choose regular public schools, and 3% would choose virtual school.

Other results of the survey indicated that school choice is not a partisan issue among voters. The survey results indicate high levels of support exist among Democrats, Republicans, and Independents for school choice concepts, such as tax credit scholarships, charter schools, and school vouchers. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the 2007 per pupil student funding in Kentucky was \$9,348. (*The statistically representative poll of 1,200 Kentucky voters has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.*)

From; Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice
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AT LAST, DISASTER WARNING RADIOS INSTALLED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Disaster warning radios that were given without cost to all public schools are now being "loaned" to private schools. It was a wait of more than three years before the radios were loaned to the private schools by the Department of Homeland Security. Michael Chertoff, who headed the Department of Homeland Security, in an exercise of "selective" security had just ignored the children in the private and religious schools. *Was their safety not important because they could pray for God's help in their religious schools?* Anyway, now after a massive effort and some expenses, the disaster radios are installed at the private schools. *Their students are Americans too, Secretary Chertoff!*

EDUCATION SECY. DUNCAN APPOINTS HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVIST TO HEAD OFFICE OF SAFE SCHOOLS!

Education Secretary Duncan appointed Kevin Jennings to head the Office of Safe Schools. Jennings founded the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN), a homosexual activist group that now has thousands of chapters at high schools across the nation. GLSEN chapters and materials have promoted sex between young teens and adults, and sponsored "field trips" to gay pride parades. Jennings was the keynote speaker at a notorious GLSEN conference at Tufts University in 2000 at which HIV/AIDS coordinators discussed in detail, before an audience including area high school students, how to perform various homosexual acts.

From *Education Reporter*, July 2009

OHIO CUTS AID TO PRIVATE SCHOOL CHILDREN

Ohio's Governor, Ted Strickland and the legislature reduced several private school programs; the EdChoice Scholarships, auxiliary services, grants for educating handicapped and re-imbursment for state mandated services by private schools. The Governor also made a \$9 million cut in the private school aid package while public schools were not reduced. In all, the proposed budget cut about 20% of funds from the private school children's schools. The Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Gary Cates, opposed the final bill because of its inequity of the cuts to private schools.

PRIVATE SCHOOL CHILDREN TO SHARE IN TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

As Reported by Joe McTighe, Executive Director of CAPE, the U.S. Department of Education has announced that the new Enhancing Education Through Technology grant funds (\$650 million) will be made available to private school students on an equal basis to expenditures for public schools students.

There must be equitable participation of students and teachers in private schools. For detailed information about the implementation of this technology program, refer to the CAPE (Council of American Private Education) website.



Student School Choice Essay Contest



Win a scholarship grant to the middle school or high school of your choice. Enter now. The contest entry date runs from August 31, 2009 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, and Third Prize - \$100. The High School Scholarship Awards are; First Prize - \$1000, Second Prize - \$750 and Third Prize - \$500. Go to our CEF website (www.educational-freedom.org) to download an entry form or call the CEF office, (636) 686-7101