



EDUCATION

- ✓ We advocate – as a matter of justice – for the high quality education of all California students attending our public and private schools from early childhood through college, especially for those most in need.
- ✓ We affirm that all parents and guardians have both the right and the responsibility to direct their children's education, including the choice of public, charter, independent, or faith-based schooling.
- ✓ We support the best preparation, support and accountability of teachers to help them achieve successful careers as professional educators.
- ✓ We believe that educational reforms, resources, creative public/private partnerships, and policy decisions must be implemented at the level closest to actual teaching and learning situations.

BUILDING THE COMMON GOOD THROUGH EDUCATION

“All persons of whatever race, sex, condition, or age, by virtue of their dignity as human beings, have an inalienable right to a quality education.”

A quality education is vital to the life and dignity of every person. We advocate for this human right for all individuals from early childhood, through elementary and high school, and into opportunities for college/career technical education. California's public as well as private schools must both be respected and supported as essential partners in educating our state's students.

Parents and guardians are the first and foremost educators of their children. We affirm the parental human right to direct, and to be fully engaged in, their children's education. This starts with the ability to choose freely the appropriate educational community for their child – one that supports their values, meets their child's learning needs and cultivates their child's talents and interests. Such choice supports each child's good, every family's good, and our common good.

- U.S. Bishops
Political Responsibility: Proclaiming the Gospel of Life, Protecting the Least Among Us, and Pursuing the Common Good.

Teachers have a human right to fair, productive, meaningful work. We support ensuring an exceptionally qualified and effective statewide teaching force as the primary strategy for providing students with a world class education. Good public policies are needed to attract diverse, talented individuals and to create innovative pipelines into the profession. It is also imperative to strengthen and retain great teachers with ongoing professional development.

Reforms and resources should advance excellence and equity in education through: Curriculum that educates the whole child; authentic assessment of growth in student learning; a welcoming and safe learning environment; and local school innovation and flexibility. Quality affordable early learning and out-of-school time opportunities should be available for students among a viable mixed delivery system of public/private providers (including those that are faith-based).

“The education of children is a ‘most serious duty’ and a ‘primary right of parents’... Schools do not replace parents, they complement them.”

Fair and constitutional education funding must be provided for students attending our state's public and private schools, with a preferential option for those who are poor and most vulnerable. Tax relief is needed that empowers parents and teachers to educate the children entrusted to their care. Furthermore, tax incentives should be offered that inspire greater philanthropy (and savings) in order to generate new resources to expand investments in education.

- Pope Francis

For more information, visit www.catholic.org or contact Raymond Burnell, rburnell@catholic.org, 916-313-4013