



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 needed educational reforms, resources, public and private partnerships as well as 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.”

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

Education is a fundamental right vital to the life and dignity of every person. This principle extends from early childhood, through elementary and high school, and into opportunities for college and career technical education. Education creates opportunities for individuals to succeed in life, to actively participate in society and to compete globally in the 21st century.

Parents and guardians are the first and foremost educators of their children. We support the parents’ right to choose the appropriate educational community for their child—one that supports their values, meets their child’s learning needs and cultivates their child’s natural talents and interests.

Ongoing reforms and additional resources should advance innovation, excellence and equity in education through: Curriculum that educates the whole child; authentic assessment of growth in student learning; meaningful engagement of families; development of highly qualified and effective educators; a welcoming and safe learning environment; and local school community innovation and flexibility. In addition, early learning programs, appropriate intervention, out-of-school time and enrichment opportunities should also be available for students.

A “Child Benefit” fiscal policy and creative partnerships should be central in the stewardship of education. Fair and responsible education funding must be provided for students attending our state’s public and private schools, with a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. We advocate for tax relief that empowers parents and teachers to educate the children entrusted to their care. Furthermore, we also advocate for tax incentives which can inspire greater philanthropy (and savings) in order to generate new resources to expand investments in education.

We are committed to collaborating with policy leaders and other organizations, like the California Association of Private Schools Organizations (CAPSO), in advancing these education principles and priorities.

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