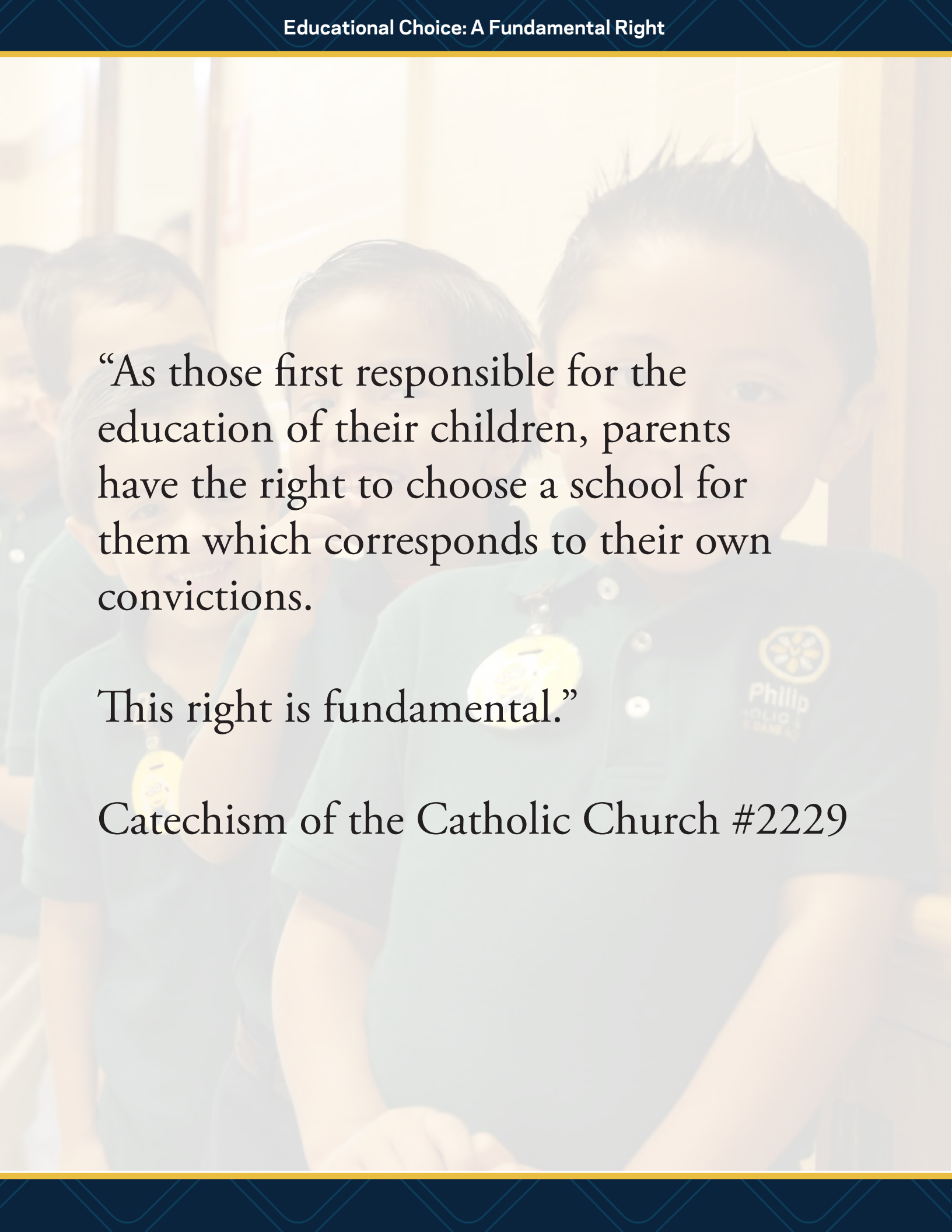




Program for Educational Access Educational Choice Advocacy Guide



“As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions.

This right is fundamental.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #2229

Educational choice, which allows families to use public funds for the educational services that best fit their needs, is...



Constitutional

In *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*, the U.S. Supreme Court determined that parents have the right to direct the education of their children.



Supported by the Church

"The entire Catholic community should be encouraged to advocate for parental school choice and personal and corporate tax credits, which will help parents to fulfill their responsibility in educating their children."

- The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium"



Good for Catholic Schools

Public-private partnerships, like vouchers and scholarship tax-credit programs, greatly expand the capacity of urban Catholic schools to sustain educational excellence, especially in low-income communities.



Good for Students

The achievement gap is smaller in faith-based schools (Jeynes, 2007).



CHARTER SCHOOLS are one popular form of choice.



» Charter schools are public schools that are taxpayer-funded but privately operated.

» 43 states plus D.C. have enacted charter school laws.

■ States with charter school laws

PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE is becoming increasingly popular.

» Private school choice allows tax dollars to follow the child to the private school of their choice.

» These programs can take many forms including education savings accounts (ESAs), tax-credit scholarships, and vouchers.

» 26 states plus D.C. offer private school choice.



■ States with private school choice

Other forms of educational choice include:

Homeschooling

Allows parents to personalize their child's education. Approximately 2 million students in the United State are homeschooled.

Open Enrollment

Allows students attending poor-performing public schools to attend higher-performing public schools inside or outside their district.

Virtual Schools

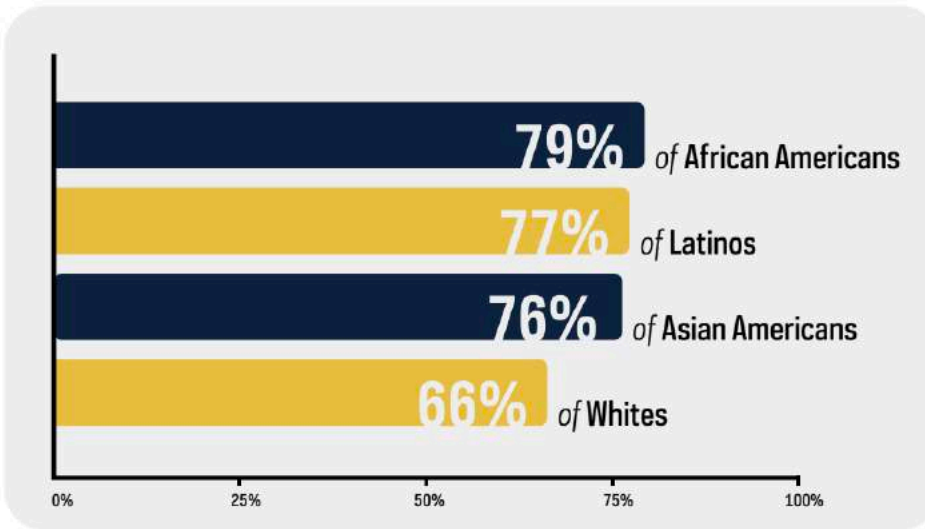
Students are taught primarily or entirely online. This, like homeschooling, allows for more flexibility and personalization in a child's education.

Magnet Schools

These public schools offer specialized education programs, often emphasizing specific content areas like math or science.

MOST AMERICANS support educational choice

Support for Private School Choice Programs



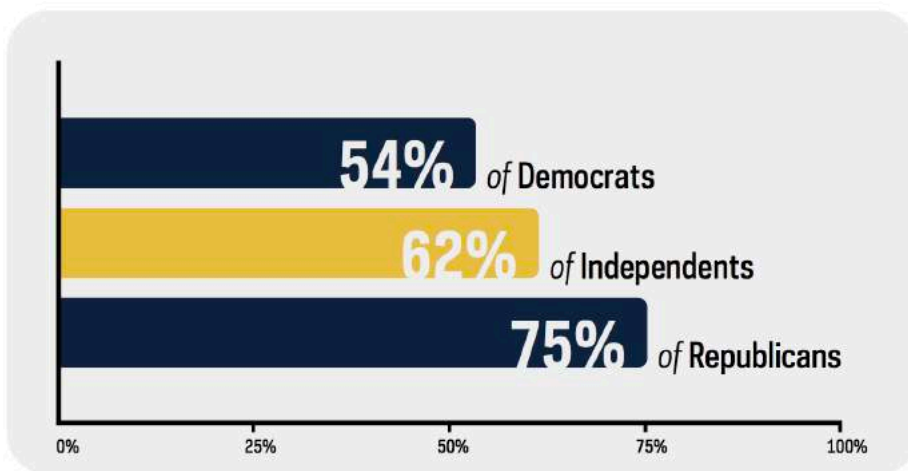
GenForward, Sept. 2017



Federal funding for school vouchers is one of just four policy proposals that Republicans and Democrats both support. (Gallup, Apr. 2017)

75%
of millennials support educational choice
(Beck, Jan. 2018)

Support for Private School Choice by Political Affiliation

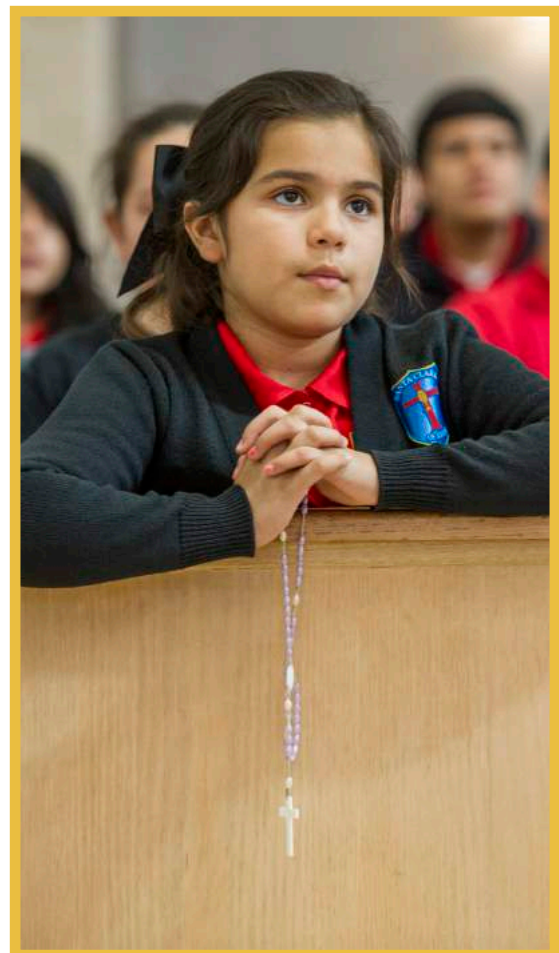


Beck, Jan. 2018



The Catholic School Advantage

- » The **achievement gap is smaller** in faith-based schools
(Jeynes, 2007; Marks & Lee, 1989)
- » Students in Catholic and other private schools demonstrate **higher academic achievement** than students from similar backgrounds in public schools
(Coleman & Hoffer, 1987; Coleman, Hoffer, & Kilgore, 1982; Greeley, 1982; Sander, 1996)
- » Latino and African American students who attend Catholic schools are **more likely to graduate** from high school and more likely to graduate from college than their public school peers
(Benson, Yeager, Guerra, & Manno, 1986; Evans & Schwab, 1995; Neal, 1997; Sander & Krautman, 1995)
- » Graduates of Catholic high schools are **more likely to vote** than public school graduates
(Dee, 2005)
- » Graduates of Catholic schools are more likely to **earn higher wages** than public school graduates
(Hoxby, 1994; Neal, 1997)
- » Catholic schools tend to produce graduates who are **more civically engaged, more tolerant** for diverse views, and **more committed** to service as adults
(Campbell, 2001; Greeley & Rossi, 1966; Greene, 1998; Wolf, Greene, Kleitz, & Thalhammer, 2001)



Academic Outcomes for Choice Scholarship Students

Seventeen empirical studies examined academic outcomes for students participating in private school choice using random assignment, the “gold standard” of defensible social science:

- **11 found improved test scores for school choice participants**
- 4 found no significant effect for school choice participants
- 2 found negative impact in the early years of study for school choice participants

Academic Outcomes for Public School Students

21 empirical studies examined school choice and how it impacts academic outcomes in public schools:

- **20 found that school choice improved public school academic outcomes**
- 1 found no significant effect on academic outcomes from school choice

Fiscal Impact on Taxpayers and Public Schools

28 studies examined the financial impact for the taxpayers and public schools:

- **25 found that school choice programs save taxpayers money**
- 3 found that school choice programs are revenue neutral
- None found that school choice programs have a negative fiscal impact

Effects of School Choice Programs on Racial Stratification

10 studies examined the impact of school choice on racial segregation:

- **9 found that school choice programs move students into less segregated schools**
- 1 found that school choice programs have no net effect on racial segregation
- None found that school choice programs increase racial segregation

“Parents who have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools. Consequently, the public power, which has the obligation to protect and defend the rights of citizens, must see to it, in its concern for distributive justice, that public subsidies are paid out in such a way that parents are truly free to choose according to their conscience the schools they want for their children.”

Gravissimum Educationis—the Declaration on Christian Education
Pope Paul VI, October 1965

“While steps must be taken to ensure legitimate freedom of choice in education for all, special attention should be given to extending it to those in our country who suffer most from educational disadvantage.”

To Teach as Jesus Did
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1972

"Parental rights are natural and inalienable and should not be limited to the economically privileged."

Principles for Educational Reform in the United States
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1995

"[E]verything possible must be done, in cooperation with the wider community, to ensure that [Catholic schools] are accessible to people of all social and economic strata. No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation."

Address to Catholic Educators
Pope Benedict XVI, 2008

» **Contact your state senator/representative** to tell them that you support educational choice.



» **Consider your gifts** — artistic, business, financial, technological — and put them to work for Catholic schools.

» **Earn tax credits** by donating to an education scholarship program in your state.

» **Encourage your local bishop or pastor** to speak out on behalf of choice.



» **Distribute this booklet** to those in your community.

» **Read *To Nurture the Soul of a Nation: Latino Families, Catholic Schools, and Educational Opportunity*.**

» **Stay up-to-date** by signing up for an educational choice newsletter like the one provided by the [American Federation for Children](#).



» **Host an event** for [National School Choice Week](#), held every January.

Formed in 2010, the University of Notre Dame's Program for Educational Access (PEA) represents an innovative partnership between the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), Church leaders, and policy makers. Animated by Notre Dame's mission to cultivate a disciplined sensibility to the poverty and injustice that burden so many families, the PEA helps make high-performing, faith-based schools financially accessible to families on the margins of society.

The PEA is housed within ACE, which sustains and strengthens under-resourced Catholic schools through leadership formation, research, and professional service to ensure that all children, especially those from low-income families, have the opportunity to experience the gift of an excellent Catholic education.



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

ace.nd.edu/choice | edaccess@nd.edu