

CITIZENS FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

*Representing
Elementary and Secondary
Private and Parochial Schools
in Louisiana
before the Legislature
and State Government*



LOUISIANA CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE VIII. EDUCATION, SECTION 1

THE LEGISLATURE SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE
EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE AND
SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A PUBLIC
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

KEY WORD *AND*



ROBERT M. TASMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA BOVARD
BUSINESS MANAGER

P.O. BOX 65196
BATON ROUGE, LA 70896
(225) 346-5441

CECADVOCACY@COX.NET
WWW.LOUISIANACEC.ORG



(Updated Nov 2016)

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

- ✓ Advocates for approved state funding of nonpublic school programs.
- ✓ Advocates on legislation that serves the interests of the private and parochial school sector.
- ✓ Monitors amendments to public school legislative bills to ensure parochial and private schools are not unnecessarily or adversely affected.
- ✓ Monitors proposed changes to the TOPS program.
- ✓ Represents private and parochial schools before the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Louisiana Department of Education.
- ✓ Promotes easy constituent advocacy with legislators using *VoterVOICE*, the online grassroots lobbying system. Registration is available using the *VoterVOICE* link on the CEC website.
- ✓ Publishes a periodic newsletter entitled *The Bulletin Board* covering legislation, advocacy and parental choice.
- ✓ Educates legislators and citizens on the contributions of private and parochial schools to the state's economy and budget. In Louisiana, **nearly 15%** of elementary and secondary school students attend non-public schools at a cost savings to the state of **\$1.3 Billion**.

MISSION STATEMENT

Citizens for Educational Choice (CEC) is the voice of nonpublic schools at the Louisiana Legislature. It represents the interests and concerns of nonpublic schools in legislative and policy matters that could impact the mission of those schools. CEC also seeks state budget appropriations for secular programs benefitting the education of children in state approved and *Brumfield v. Dodd* compliant private and parochial schools.

HISTORY

Louisiana Federation, Citizens for Educational Freedom was established in 1967 and in the ensuing years successfully advocated passage of numerous legislative measures benefitting students attending private and parochial schools.

Some of these included *Required Services* reimbursements, *School Bus Transportation*, *Tuition Tax Deduction*, the *Educational Excellence Fund* and the *Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund (8g)*.

On July 1, 2007 Citizens for Educational Choice (CEC) assumed the mission of CEF. The newer name reflects the growing sentiment among parents who wish to have a voice and a choice in the education of their children.

CEC is a 501(c)(4) organization and is supported primarily by annual membership dues from nonpublic schools and parent organizations.

FY 2016-17 STATE FUNDING FOR PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS

\$40,115,707	Louisiana Scholarship Program
8,744,383	Required Services
7,530,930	School Lunch Salary Supplements (Child Nutrition Program)
6,632,236	Early Childhood Development
2,911,843	Textbooks
2,183,498	Education Excellence Trust Funds
1,023,338	8(g) Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 634,019 Diocesan Systems• 389,319 Independent
405,000	Scholarships for Students with Exceptionalities
171,865	Textbook Administration

VALUE OF STATE TAX EXEMPTIONS

22,606,000 Tuition Tax Deduction

\$ 92,324,800 TOTAL



LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

2016

- Retention of most funding amounts notwithstanding the state's \$2 Billion budget shortfall

2015

- Increase in *Scholarships for Students with Exceptionalities*

2014

- \$1 Million increase in *Required Services* funding
- Expansion of *Tuition Donation Rebate Program*

2013

- Expansion/full funding of the *Louisiana Scholarship Program*

2012

- *Louisiana Scholarship Program*
- *School Tuition Organizations*

2011

- *State Income Tax Deduction for School Tuition* increased to 100%
- Approval of *4th Year History of Religion Course* to fulfill TOPS requirement

REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

- ✓ Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)
- ✓ BESE Nonpublic School Council
- ✓ BESE 8(g) Advisory Committee
- ✓ College and Career Readiness Commission
- ✓ Louisiana Department of Education Special Education Advisory Panel