



# A CALL TO CHRISTIAN PASTORS TO SUPPORT PARENT EMPOWERMENT AND ESAs

## KEY POINTS

- Parents are concerned about schools' quality, values, safety, and culture.
- The Bible calls Christians to educate their children in the truth.
- Parents should be empowered with options in their child's education.

## IN PRACTICE

Empowering parents helps children. For example, in 1998, Florida's low-income students ranked #34 in the nation on reading and #27 in math. With choice, today they are #1. In the words of one graduate:

"Hard work paired with a strong moral foundation makes education powerful. My family's success wouldn't have been possible without school choice, which gave us access to that environment."

Hera Varmah,  
A Florida Choice Alumni

## WHAT PARENTS FACE

Many parents are concerned about schools today, whether because of academic quality, conflicts with family values, the need for a safe and loving environment, the search for positive and edifying friends, and many other reasons.

## AN EDUCATION IN TRUTH

The Lord calls us to "train up a child in the way he should go" so that "when he grows older, he will not abandon it." (Proverbs 22:6) Parents have the God-given responsibility to educate their children:

- "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)
- "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)
- "And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)

The Bible calls Christians to raise their children to be upstanding, virtuous, God-fearing men and women. (Proverbs 9:10) We must teach our children the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4) and the commandments: to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind; and to love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39)

In his own upbringing, Jesus increased “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:52) As a young man, we also know Jesus learned to read and interpret Scriptures (Luke 2:46–52), and that he gained skills to follow in His earthly father’s trade (Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3) and thereby earn a livelihood. Parents who follow this model will ensure their children also receive an education that allows them to prosper, no matter what talents God has given them. (Matthew 25:14–30).

## A CALL TO EMPOWER PARENTS

We believe that Texas parents should be empowered with greater transparency,

quality, respect, and choices in their child’s education. Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are a key program that does so. ESAs have funds that allow parents to pay for tuition at any accredited school of the parent’s choosing, as well as for tutoring, books, transportation, or other approved educational expenses. Thirty-one states have similar programs and 14 have ESAs.

Please pray for Texas and for our legislators, that they may pass laws which strengthen families and recognize that parents are their children’s primary educators. You can learn more at [txparentsmatter.com/ESAs](http://txparentsmatter.com/ESAs).



*“Hard work paired with a strong moral foundation makes education powerful. My family’s success wouldn’t have been possible without school choice, which gave us access to that environment. Without my parents being blessed with the choice of which school to send us to we would not be where we are today. My three older brothers have graduated from college with their bachelor’s degree. I graduated from Florida A&M University with my bachelor’s in Food Science and Technology. So, when people say that school choice doesn’t work, I simply show them my family.”*

–HERA VARMAH (FLORIDA)



*“My daughter is almost six. She’s had an Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) since she was three years old. She is autistic, has a speech delay, occupational therapy needs, and a short attention span. Having the ESA opened many doors for my daughter to be able to learn in different ways. We homeschool her with a Christian curriculum called My Fathers World. I love that we get to prioritize Jesus Christ in my daughter’s education and in her life. She also gets to go to weekly swim classes, dance classes, and equine therapy for social interaction with other children. All families should be able to choose the right education for their child because parents know what is best for our child.”*

–BRENNA MANGANO (ARIZONA)