

Whose Children Are They?

A Biblical Apologetic for Parent Empowerment in Education Sunday 2025

***“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”
(Proverbs 22:6 NASB)***

“My wish is not to see the Bible excluded from schools but to see it used as a system of religion and morality.” Noah Webster, 1788ⁱ

One of the unique and historic principles of the American Experiment is government that creates the form of protection for the whole while preserving the value and freedom of the individual. Collectivism is the opposite and in socialist and communist nations. It swallows the individual into the “one size fits all” tyranny that destroys personal liberty.

Such is the condition of an absolute government monopoly of K-12 education that controls our families’ educational decisions through taxation, impacting lower and middle income families hardest, while being allowed to use that same money to protect its monopoly.

Nowhere in the Bible, nowhere in our U.S. Constitution and not until the late 1800’s did the education of our children become primarily a function of government. Government control and oversight of education has now metastasized for well over a century and federalized in 1980 (creation of the federal Department of Education).

As it essentially became not too large to fail but too embedded to disentangle, other options such as home schooling, private and church schools and quasi-government charter schools have reemerged in recent decades. What exactly is “education”?

EDUCA'TION, noun [Latin *educatio*.] *The bringing up, as of a child, instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on **parents and guardians** who neglect these duties. (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary)*

1. **Children are a gift from God to parents NOT TO THE GOVERNMENT** and the parents are first responsible for their upbringing and the shaping of as well as the caring for their soul, spirit and body.

a. **Psalm 127:3 (NASB)**– *“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward.”* This verse is preceded by the “Unless the Lord builds the house...” passage that makes it crystal clear that He is loaning us children as a sacred trust; from Him and for Him.

2. **Children’s education begins with their first breath**, the parents teach them to talk, walk, act and know the One Who gave him or her to Mommy and Daddy. They are the child’s first and most important educators.

a. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NLT)** - *“And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.”*

3. **Children’s education should not be separated from their faith** or their parent’s faith to divide their heart, mind and soul into fields of battle with unbiblical values and worldviews.

a. **Psalm 1:1-3 (NASB)** - *“Blessed is the man (woman, child) who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”*

b. **Joshua 1:7-8 (NASB)** – *“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”*

c. **Matthew 18:5,6 (NASB)** – *“And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”*

4. **Children's education should not be in direct conflict with the faith and values of the parents.** If a school is failing that child academically, morally, even physically, parents have a duty to find an atmosphere that will meet those needs.

- a. **James 1:21-25 (NASB)** - *“Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.”*

Vital Facts About Empowering Parents through Education Savings Accounts (SB 2 and HB 3):

- We have accepted the oversight of “the state” over ALL children’s education with the adoption (1916 in Texas) of state Compulsory Attendance laws ([TX Education Code Section 25.085](#)). Private AND Home Schooling were included as complying with that law. In 1981 the TEA, a state agency, determined that home schools were NOT private schools and therefore not allowed..ⁱⁱ
 - Home Schooling was restored in Texas in 1994 (*Leeper v. Arlington*) and preserved by hard work, however is not “permanent” unless we stay vigilant to make sure this right is protected.
- The essential right of parents to direct the education of their children is in place, including choosing home or private schooling. However, each family is being taxed to pay for a system they have decided does not meet the needs of their children. They must pay twice, creating a discriminatory punishment of those families.

- Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) as written in SB 2 and HB 3 in 2025, make available a voluntary choice for parents to choose access to either \$2,000 per student per year for home schooling or \$10,000 student/year for an accredited private or church school.
- ESA's change nothing for parents who choose not to participate and place only annual standardized testing and vendor approval for materials parameters on home schooling for those who do. Private schools, including religious and church, are accredited through the Texas Private School Accreditation Commissionⁱⁱⁱ as is the current standard.
- Only three to five percent of all students would be likely to participate initially, however the accountability and competition for students would push the government schools to establish an "improve it or lose them" environment.
- A return to solid academics, sound character and faith friendly atmosphere in government schools for children and families; they and Texas win.
- The financial freedom for parents to place their children in the best educational environment for them whether government, private or home school is restored; they and Texas win.
- Most importantly, for those who care, God is honored and core American values are once again taught to greater numbers of our children.

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ⁱ America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations, Federer, Pg. 675

ⁱⁱ <https://thsc.org/texas-homeschooling/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.tepsac.org/#/home>