



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



September 26, 2023

Dear Fathers and Principals,

Education is one of the most essential requirements for us to flourish as human beings within a just, peaceful, and healthy society. Without literacy, a sound understanding of basic mathematics, introduction to true science, and an appreciation for the arts and physical education, the healthy development of human beings and our society soon diminishes into civil and moral disorder. For this to be accomplished fathers and mothers, or in their absence legitimate guardians, have the primary responsibility to educate their children with the help of qualified schools.

Please find under cover of this letter a copy of a letter signed by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, and Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio written on behalf of the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops. I would like to underscore the importance of what they are requesting, and I seek your assistance and that of your parents and faculties.

I would ask that we register our support for School Choice with our state representatives and state senators in consort with the priorities that the bishops of Texas have specified including respect religious liberty. It is very important that we do everything within our capacity both not to further diminish our public schools and to foster access for an excellent education in our Catholic schools especially for children who are trapped within failing public schools and whose parents have no viable option for educating their children within the current system. Without even the first steps of legitimate reform, parents and their children will be excluded from meeting a basic human need and all of us will suffer.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation with this endeavor. Please be assured of my prayers for you as I seek yours on my behalf. I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

The Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth



Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

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Jennifer Carr Allmon
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 26, 2023

Dear Parish and School Leaders,

Parental choice will be addressed in an upcoming special session of the Texas Legislature, which Governor Abbott has announced will begin in October. We are calling on parishes and Catholic schools to engage parents to convey their support for parental choice legislation which meets the bishops' priorities.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops (TCCB) has prepared a toolkit to assist Catholic parishes and schools in learning more about the Catholic teaching on parental choice. You can access our Parental Choice Toolkit at <https://txcatholic.org/parentalchoice/>. Please post about the issue using the resources in the toolkit regularly from now through the special session. We will be updating the toolkit with more resources and materials throughout this advocacy effort.

We ask our parishes and Catholic schools to only distribute TCCB and (arch)diocesan materials or materials from partner organizations listed on our website, like the Texas Private School Association and Texans for Parental Choice in Education.

Please join us in this effort by raising your voice on social media and informing your parishioners and school communities through your newsletters, parish bulletins and other communications in support of parental choice in education using our TCCB Parental Choice Toolkit.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

*+gustavo
msps*

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller
Archbishop of San Antonio