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“In vain are schools, academies, and universities instituted, if loose principles and licentious habits are impressed upon children in their earliest years.”

John Adams

Sexualization of Children Summit Addresses Education

Last week, Heritage Foundation joined with [Family Policy Alliance](#) in hosting a [Summit on Protecting Children from Sexualization](#). The purpose of the summit was to examine the pervasive efforts of LGBT activists to infiltrate the culture, education, and health care of children with sexual information, messages, and images, and to also highlight solutions that can protect children from these harmful endeavors. Policy experts and activists on three different panels discussed the harmful nature of these efforts to the growth, development, and safety of children, and the importance of protecting parental rights, religious liberty, and freedom of speech in order to protect the innocence of children. The first panel discussing the issues in the culture addressed the infusion of LGBT topics into children’s books and reading sessions at libraries (promoted by the American Library Association) and the growing problems of sex trafficking, prostitution, and online pornography and its devastating effects. The panel discussing health care for children focused on the mental and physical harm that is done to children when they are encouraged to find their “gender identity” or pursue a transgender lifestyle. The panel featured testimonies from pediatrician Dr. Joseph Zanga, author and detransitioner (a person who has had previous medical intervention to change gender but has returned to living according to his/her biological sex), Walt Heyer, and Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Matt Sharp, who spoke to the legal aspect of anti-discrimination laws and ordinances banning conversion therapy and related court cases. A helpful resource shared during the panel on education was the [Parent Resource Guide](#), a collaborative effort between several organizations to educate parents regarding the transgender issue and how they can best help and protect their children. The education panel also discussed growing trends in both public and private schools, highlighting the importance of preserving and strengthening parental rights as well as protecting the autonomy and religious liberty of private faith-based schools. Derrick Max, principal of Cornerstone Christian School in Washington, D.C., spoke of the pressure he received from an accrediting agency to include policies and teaching that supported LGBT students in his Christian school. Cornerstone Christian School serves students who receive vouchers through the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, and is, therefore, required by law to be accredited through a secular accrediting agency. Lindsey Burke, director of the Center for Education Policy at Heritage Foundation, [emphasized](#) the growing trend of “non-discrimination” requirements in school choice programs across the country, stating, “That is how we are seeing so many of these policies enter into private schools across the country and be a precondition for participation in what is otherwise a wonderful movement on the school choice front.”

NCES Report Shows Greater Parental Satisfaction with Choice Schools

A recently released [report](#) from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) examines the differences and similarities between public, private, and public charter schools and reveals trends in education. Among the [findings](#), the NCES found “no measurable differences” between reading and math scores in charter schools and traditional public schools. However, charter schools have grown exponentially in student enrollment at an increase of 571% between 2000 and 2016. Additionally, charter schools are shown to have a more diverse student body than traditional public schools, with more schools serving a majority black (23%) and Hispanic (26%) student population than public schools (9% and 16%, respectively). Perhaps the greatest finding in the report, however, was parental satisfaction rates. The report shows that parents are [far more satisfied](#) with schools that they choose for their children, with parents being more satisfied with charter and private schools than traditional public schools. At least 70% of parents who choose private schools for their children say they are “very satisfied” in five areas concerning the school, including teachers, academic standards, order and discipline, and staff interaction with parents. Parents who choose charter schools also report greater satisfaction than public school parents, but at a significantly lower rate than private school parents. The results of the NCES report are helpful in understanding the value of parental choice in education for the overall success and wellbeing of children.

Values Voter Summit Attracts Thousands to Washington, D.C.

Last weekend, the 14th annual [Values Voter Summit](#) (VVS) brought over three thousand like-minded conservatives to Washington, D.C., for three days of panels, speeches, and networking opportunities. Hosted by Family Research Council, the VVS features well-known speakers in sessions that delve into the most important issues facing conservatives and Christians in America today. Featured speakers included Tony Perkins, President of Family Research Council and FRC Action, members of the Administration including U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, members of Congress including Rep. Mark Meadows (NC) and Sen. Josh Hawley (MO), and even [President Trump himself](#). The speakers covered topics such as education, parental rights, standing up for truth on college campuses, advancing religious freedom in an LGBT world, the transgender movement, supporting Israel, and the dangers of socialism. The summit closed with a special event honoring Pastor Andrew Brunson, who was released from prison in Turkey a year ago, with remarks from Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback and President Trump. Brigitte Gabriel, President of ACT for America, [summarized the mission](#) of the summit neatly by saying, “We are fighting for the soul of our country. . . . The least we can do is protect and preserve those freedoms they [the Founding Fathers] created for generations to come. We owe it to them, and we owe it to our children.”

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACIS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[DeVos, Conway Tackle Widespread Opposition to \\$5 Billion Federal Tax Credit Scholarship Proposal](#)

[Shame on School Choice for Helping Kids in Too Many Ways!](#)

[Britain’s Opposition Party Wants to Ban Private Schools, Citing ‘Grotesque’ Inequality](#)

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