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“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it.”
Thomas Paine

President Trump Signs Executive Orders for Expanding School Choice and Ending Indoctrination in Schools

This week, during [National School Choice Week](#), President Trump signed two executive orders that advance his educational agenda by promoting school choice opportunities and ending the advancement of woke ideology in schools. In promoting school choice, Trump signed the [Expanding Education Freedom and Opportunity for Families](#) executive order which instructs federal funding programs to prioritize school choice opportunities. The order states, “It is the policy of my Administration to support parents in choosing and directing the upbringing and education of their children.” The order points to the dismal student scores as reported by the National Assessment for Educational Progress, and finds that “when our public education system fails such a large segment of society, it hinders our national competitiveness and devastates families and communities.” The order specifically instructs the Departments of Education and Labor to prioritize educational freedom for students and teachers through discretionary grant programs. The order also instructs the Secretaries of Defense, Interior, and Health and Human Services to expand school choice opportunities in current programs [for military families](#), in Indian education, and through child care programs for working families (such as the Child Care and Development Block Grant program).

The President signed also signed the [Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling](#) executive order which blocks federal funding from any educational institution that promotes “gender ideology or discriminating equity ideology.” The order states, “Imprinting anti-American, subversive, harmful, and false ideologies on our nation’s children not only violates longstanding anti-discrimination civil rights law in many cases, but usurps basic parental authority.” The order instructs the Secretaries of Education, Defense, and Health and Human Services to work with the attorney general to establish an “Ending Indoctrination Strategy.” This strategy includes blocking funding from schools that support or promote these harmful ideologies and enabling law enforcement to take necessary action against school officials who harm minors by encouraging or supporting a gender transition. The order also reestablishes the [1776 Commission](#) to promote patriotic education highlighting the founding of our country and encouraging the use of the primary documents of our nation’s founding in classrooms.

[NEW! AACCS Today Podcast: A Deep Dive into Accreditation, Part 2](#)

Supreme Court to Take Religious Charter School Case

The Supreme Court [announced](#) that it will hear a case regarding whether it is constitutional to establish a religious charter school. The case involves the St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School which was approved by the virtual charter school board in Oklahoma in October 2023. That same month, Oklahoma’s state attorney general, Gentner Drummond, filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the school, pointing to both the state law which prohibits public funds supporting religious efforts and the U.S. Constitution which

prohibits the state establishment of religion. While [charter schools](#) are publicly funded and considered public schools, they are privately run under a preapproved charter, allowing them to have a more localized focus to meet the needs of their students. The leaders at St. Isidore [applied for recognition](#) as a charter school, claiming that since they were considered a private school, they should be able to qualify as a charter school, even though they were religious in nature. The Oklahoma State Supreme Court [ruled](#) in June 2024 that the establishment of a religious charter school is unconstitutional and violates state law. However, as scholar Joshua Dunn [argues](#), the ruling did not take into account recent decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court which seem to indicate that the U.S. Constitution does allow for a charter school that is religious in nature. Last October, the school and the charter school board appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which agreed to hear arguments on the case in April. The outcome of the case could have [significant effects](#) on the educational landscape and school choice opportunities as a positive ruling for St. Isidore could open the door for religious charter schools nationwide.

Supreme Court to Take Parental Rights Case Involving LGBT Books in Schools

The U.S. Supreme Court has announced it will hear a case with important implications for parental rights. As the AACS [reported](#), the case [Mahmoud v. Taylor](#) started when the Montgomery County Board of Education announced in 2022 that it was adding “[LGBTQ+ texts](#)” to its curriculum for students in pre-K to fifth grade. The school board initially promised to notify parents of these lessons. Parents could then choose whether to opt their children out of the curriculum. The next day, the school board reversed its notice and opt-out policy after being flooded with exemption requests. A coalition of religious parents then sued. The school board argued that it does not force religious children to abandon their faith by reading the materials. However, the parents argued that the school board violated their First Amendment religious liberty rights. The Supreme Court [agreed to hear](#) the case after the district court and the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the parents. The Supreme Court will likely hear the case this spring and decide it this summer. “Cramming down controversial gender ideology on three-year-olds without their parents’ permission is an affront to our nation’s traditions, parental rights, and basic human decency,” said Eric Baxter, vice president and senior counsel at Becket. “The Court must make clear: parents, not the state, should be the ones deciding how and when to introduce their children to sensitive issues about gender and sexuality.”

Nominations for Christian School Teacher of the Year Due February 14

The Herzog Foundation is accepting applications through Friday, February 14, for its [Christian Teacher of the Year](#) award. Each year, the foundation honors 12 teachers who embody excellence in education. Nominees must be current K-12 Christian school teachers and have served in K-12 Christian education for at least a year. In addition, nominees must have plans to continue teaching after receiving the award. The teachers must demonstrate excellence, be highly respected, and align with the Herzog Foundation’s [mission](#). The award recipients will attend a special reception in their honor this fall at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. Learn more and nominate a teacher [here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

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

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Jamison Coppola Interview on “Better Call Ball” Radio Show, Hosted by AACS YLTC Alumni Luke Ball](#)

[Trump Signs 3 Pro-Life Executive Orders on Day of March for Life](#)

[California Drops All Charges Against David Daleiden for Exposing Planned Parenthood Baby Body Part Sales](#)