



**The Washington Flyer**  
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*"A Bible and a newspaper in every house, a good school in every district—all studied and appreciated as they merit—are the principal support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty."*  
**Benjamin Franklin**

**Catholic School Targeted by Ideologically Motivated Transvestite**

The AACCS extends its deepest condolences to all those affected by the [tragic shooting](#) that occurred on Wednesday at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis. We pray the gospel message that brings the peace of God surpassing understanding will go forth and that His comfort will be with the family and friends of those murdered and wounded. We pray for both spiritual and physical healing of those affected by this evil action.

**Department of Education Releases Guidance on Equitable Services for Private School Students**

The Education Department has released the fourth installment in a series of guidance that promotes school choice through existing federal programs. This [latest guidance](#) covers equitable services to private school students under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Specifically, the guidance highlights ways state educational agencies (SEAs) can help local educational agencies (LEAs) serve eligible private school students. The Department notes that families of private school students still pay federal taxes and thus are eligible to receive Title I funding. The AACCS DC Office reminds schools that a private school with students using services funded by Title I is not the recipient of federal financial assistance (FFA) since the program funds services to a student not a school no matter how the services or funding is allocated. LEAs are required to consult with private school officials to determine eligibility criteria and types of services to be offered to support students. LEAs and private school officials can then offer parents different options to meet the students' needs, such as summer school programs, one-on-one tutoring, and family literacy programs.

The guidance highlighted three ways an SEA can help LEAs and private school students by improving efficiency in the program. First, SEAs can encourage LEAs to pool their resources. LEAs work with students in a single district. Private schools are sometimes discouraged from using the Title I funds because of the complexity and burden of dealing with multiple LEAs for students across various districts. By pooling resources across districts, a single LEA can then streamline the Title I process to private schools. Second, SEAs can encourage LEAs to use third-party providers. An LEA with limited resources could improve efficiency by outsourcing to a third-party provider. Third, the SEA could improve an LEA's access to third-party providers. For instance, an SEA could help facilitate third-party resources from another state to the LEA. The guidance also notes that an SEA could become the Title I provider instead of an LEA. This process could happen if private school officials have demonstrated that an LEA fails to appropriately provide equitable services. The latest guidance builds on three other documents from the Education Department on promoting school choice. In March, the Department released [guidance](#) on using Title I funds for advanced coursework. In May, the Department released [guidance](#) on helping children attend safe schools. In June, the Department released [guidance](#) to expand school choice for students in failing schools. The guidance documents come in response to President Trump's [executive order](#) on expanding educational freedom for families. "Federal taxpayer dollars should support the best education outcomes for students regardless of where they attend school," [said](#) Hayley Sanon, acting assistant secretary for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. "The Trump Administration is committed to expanding education choice and ensuring parents can choose an education option that is best for their child."

## **Library of Congress and Department of Education Host Event Encouraging Values in Books**

Children gathered in libraries across the country, including the Library of Congress, for a special story hour that focused on faith, family, and fun. Christian actor and author Kirk Cameron started the [See You at the Library](#) story time in 2023 after several libraries prohibited him from reading virtue-forming books. Many of the libraries that blocked Cameron had previously held drag queen story hours. The See You at the Library events promote wholesome stories for children, with over 10,000 attendees since the program's inception. This month, the Education Department's Center for Faith hosted a story hour at the Library of Congress. Students from local AACCS schools joined Cameron on stage for games, songs, and stories with an iguana puppet named Iggy. Cameron was also joined by special guests such as political commentator Michael Knowles and *Duck Dynasty* star Missy Robertson. There, they read stories published by [Brave Books](#) like *Pride Comes Before the Fall* and *Little Lives Matter*. In addition to the positive moral message of the books, the event celebrated the country's Christian heritage. Attendees prayed for the children at the event and heard how the Library of Congress keeps Bibles on permanent display and has Scripture inscribed throughout the building. Hannah Earl, the Education Department's Center for Faith director, highlighted the role faith has in a child's education. "The work of the Center for Faith is empowering faith-based stakeholders and families and parents in their pursuit of meaningful learning, and central to that is the recognition that parents should be empowered to choose the education that is best for their children, including a faith-based education," Earl [said](#). "And alongside a faith-based education is the recognition that those values do have a place in the public square."

## **Manhattan Institute's Statement on Higher Education Draws Conservative Support**

Under the Trump administration, Republicans have increasingly focused on reforming higher education. As policymakers grapple with the best way to reform higher ed, some are looking to a new declaration from the Manhattan Institute called the [Manhattan Statement on Higher Education](#). Developed by Christopher Rufo, who has led the movement against diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in higher ed, the Manhattan Statement on Higher Education [seeks President Trump's support](#) "to advance six principles for reform: truth over ideology, institutional neutrality, color-blind equality, free speech, civil discourse, and administrative transparency." Noting that American taxpayers underwrite the activities of many wayward universities through federal student loans, Rufo asserts that the statement's "deepest purpose is to remind the public that there is a compact between the citizen and the university." Using language that mirrors the Declaration of Independence, the Manhattan Statement highlights "a long train of abuses" that are "neither light nor transient" and that "have moved our society toward a new kind of tyranny." The statement declares that higher education has abandoned its original purpose to seek the public good in pursuit of progressive ideology, including leftist partisan politics, DEI policies, and gender and Marxist ideologies. To combat these wrongs, the statement proposes the six principles of reform (listed above), with federal financial aid contingent upon a college adhering to these principles. Although the Manhattan Statement sets a bold agenda for reforming progressive institutions, it does not adequately consider the broader implications on Christian institutions. For example, the efforts to ensure administrative transparency and ideological diversity could create some challenges to the autonomy and independence of Christian higher educational institutions, even though these institutions excel in the job of preparing students for vocations and lives of service. The pursuit of higher education reform will require diligence from Christian advocates to ensure the mission and autonomy of faith-based institutions remains protected and uncompromised.

## **In Case You Missed It:**

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

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

[4 Cases to Watch in Next Supreme Court Session](#)

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