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"Statesmen may plan and speculate for Liberty, but it is Religion and Morality alone, which can establish the Principles upon which Freedom can securely stand."
John Adams

Department of Education Shifts Key Programs to Other Departments

On Tuesday, the Education Department (ED) [announced](#) that it has signed agreements to partner with other federal agencies in administering several programs currently run by the Education Department. These six interagency agreements will span four agencies. First, ED will partner with the Department of Labor (DOL) to administer elementary and secondary education programs. According to a [fact sheet](#), these programs include Title I, a program offering equitable services that some [Christian schools](#) use. Other Title funds moving to the DOL include Title II and Title IV. The partnership is intended to align "learning pathways and resources" so the next generation "is ready to meet the demands of a changing economy and be productive members of a free society." ED is also partnering with the DOL to provide higher education programs. ED will partner with the Health and Human Services Department to run the foreign medical accreditation and college child care access programs. The other programs with a new home are the international education and foreign language studies program, which will be moved to the State Department, and the Indian education program, which will be moved to the Interior Department. ED will continue to house the Federal Student Aid program and the Office for Civil Rights for the foreseeable future. "The Trump Administration is taking bold action to break up the federal education bureaucracy and return education to the states," [said](#) Education Secretary Linda McMahon. "Cutting through layers of red tape in Washington is one essential piece of our final mission [to shut down the Education Department]."

Supreme Court Declines Christian School Prayer Case

The Supreme Court [has declined](#) to hear the case *Cambridge Christian School v. Florida High School Athletic Association*, which challenged the decision to stop Christian schools from praying over the loudspeaker at a football game. The case involved two private Christian schools that made it to the state championship football game in 2015 and requested to use the loudspeaker to pray before the game. The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) denied the request, with the explanation that they believed it would violate the First Amendment's establishment clause. Cambridge Christian School filed suit, but a lower court sided with the FHSAA and its claim that any announcements over the loudspeaker constituted government speech. As [reported in the Washington Flyer last week](#), the AACCS had submitted an [amicus brief](#) supporting the First Amendment rights of the Christian schools to pray over the loudspeaker. The refusal of the Supreme Court to hear the case keeps the lower court decision in place, as well as a 2000 Supreme Court decision in the case *Santa Fe Independent School v. Doe* that determined student-led prayer at football games violated the establishment clause. At least four justices must grant approval for a case to be accepted by the Supreme Court. The announcement to turn away the *Cambridge* case came with no explanation as to why the case was denied a hearing. Interestingly, the refusal to hear the *Cambridge* case comes after other SCOTUS [decisions](#) protecting religious liberty and free speech rights, including a 2022 Supreme Court decision that protected the right of Coach Kennedy, a public school employee, to pray at the 50-yard line with his students at a football game.

Florida Adopts Education Freedom Declaration

Florida has become the [first state](#) to adopt [The Phoenix Declaration: An American Vision for Education](#) as the “[guiding principles](#) for education in Florida.” Published last February, the Phoenix Declaration was compiled by over 50 education scholars and has the support of 10 conservative organizations. As [described](#) by the Heritage Foundation, the declaration “calls for a renewal and strengthening of American education that cultivates virtue, strives for excellence, imparts the wisdom of history, fosters a love of country and one’s fellow citizens, and teaches children to seek the good, true, and beautiful.” Seven principles are outlined in the declaration as essential for improving education in America. These principles include parental choice and responsibility, transparency and accountability, truth and goodness, cultural transmission, character formation, academic excellence, and citizenship. The Florida State Board of Education [voted last week](#) to ratify and adopt the declaration, showing its commitment to ensuring Florida’s educational system follows the principles outlined in the declaration. “By formally adopting this Declaration, we are reaffirming our commitment to an education system that pursues truth and virtue, empowers parents, and always prioritizes our students,” [stated](#) Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas.

Millennials and Gen Z Drive a Bible-Reading Comeback

A [recent report](#) shows an increase in the percentage of adults who read their Bibles on a weekly basis. According to data released by the Barna Group from their [State of the Church Project](#), 42% of adults report that they read their Bible weekly, up from 30% a year ago in 2024. For Christians, the percentage rises to 50%. Younger generations showed the greatest increase in Bible reading, with 50% of Millennials (born 1984-1998) and 49% of Gen Z (born 1999-2015) reporting weekly reading, compared to 41% of Gen X (born 1965-1983) and 31% of Boomers (born 1946-1964). When broken down by sex, the data showed more men are engaged in weekly Bible reading than women, with 57% of Millennial males and 54% of Gen Z males reading regularly, compared to 43% and 46% females, respectively. For Gen X, the gap is much smaller, with 43% of males and 40% of females engaged in regular reading. Curiously, though interest in Bible reading has significantly grown, the percentage of people who believe in the Bible’s authority and accuracy has not increased at the same rate. When given the statement “The Bible is totally accurate in all the principles it teaches,” only 36% of those surveyed strongly agreed. For Christians, that number was 44%. These percentages represent a five-point increase from 2024 for both groups. “Engagement is outpacing conviction,” noted David Kinnaman, CEO of the Barna Group. “People are opening the Bible more often, but they’re still wrestling with what they believe about it. That gap between reading and trusting is worth paying attention to.” Kinnaman also observed that the data indicates a possible reset in spiritual interest rather than revival: “We’re not necessarily witnessing widespread social transformation,” Kinnaman cautioned. “But we are seeing Americans move back toward patterns of faith that had been fading. That in itself is hopeful.”

In Case You Missed It:

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

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

[The New Reality with Universal School Vouchers: Homeschoolers, Marketing, Pupil Churn](#)

[Judge Blocks 10 Commandments Law Posters in Texas](#)

[Lessons Learned from Arizona’s School Choice Program](#)

[Republicans Show Appetite for Obamacare Reforms](#)