



# The Texas bishops support parental choice!

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>WHAT IS PARENTAL CHOICE?</b></p>                    | <p>Parental Choice, also known as “school choice,” is a public policy that financially <b>assists parents in choosing the best educational environment for their children</b> by allowing their tax dollars to be used outside of the public school system.</p>   |
| <p><b>WHY DO THE BISHOPS SUPPORT PARENTAL CHOICE?</b></p> | <p><b>Parents are the primary educators of their children.</b> The Catholic Church teaches that parents have the right and responsibility to determine the best education for their children and the government should cooperate with parents in providing that education, including funding non-public options.</p>  |
| <p><b>WHO BENEFITS FROM PARENTAL CHOICE?</b></p>          | <p><b>Everyone.</b> Currently, only those able to afford to live in the best public-school districts or to pay private school tuition enjoy a full range of educational options. However, through a well-designed parental choice program, families with fewer financial resources will no longer be limited to their local public school and will be able to consider additional educational opportunities.</p>  |
| <p><b>HOW WILL PARENTAL CHOICE WORK?</b></p>              | <p>In a special session this fall, the Legislature will consider legislation to establish an <b>Education Savings Account (ESA)</b>. An ESA works like a flexible spending account (FSA) used to pay for a variety of education-related expenses including private school tuition, school fees, tutoring, educational therapies, transportation, etc. The amount for each student is usually a percentage of the cost of educating that child in a public school.</p>   |
| <p><b>KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR LEGISLATION</b></p>          | <p>The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops will be monitoring legislation to ensure that it can be implemented in a manner that leads to increased access to educational opportunities to maximize student success. <b>For the bishops to support a bill, it must include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Robust safeguards for the autonomy and religious liberty of private schools</b></li> <li>• <b>Accreditation of participating private schools</b></li> <li>• <b>Prioritization of low-income families for participation in an ESA program</b></li> <li>• <b>Administration of norm-referenced assessments</b></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP</b></p>                     | <p>We need 75 votes in the Texas House. <b>Contact your state representative</b> and ask for more educational options to be given to families needing it most. <b>Visit <a href="https://linktr.ee/ParentalChoice">https://linktr.ee/ParentalChoice</a> to learn more and to contact your state representative.</b></p>   |



**Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops**

THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CHURCH

For more info  
use the QR code or visit  
[txcatholic.org/parentalchoice](https://txcatholic.org/parentalchoice)  
or contact us at 512-339-9882  
or [parents@txcatholic.org](mailto:parents@txcatholic.org)

