

EDUCATION REFORM REPORT



Dan Smithwick
Committee Chairman

This report was developed by the Education Committee of the Council for National Policy. It is intended to serve as a resource for education reforms by the new administration of the Department of Education under the leadership of Mrs. Becky DeVos, Secretary-Designate.

We submit this report to the Donald Trump/Betsy DeVos administration with the hope that our organization may be of assistance with the restoration of education in America, in accordance with historic Judeo-Christian principles which formed the basis of instruction in America's schools for its first 300 hundred years.

We are pleased to serve at your pleasure.

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Executive Director, CNP

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Introduction

“Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another,” said G.K. Chesterton.* The question is: Whose soul? In truth, education consists of information, facts, theories, skills, consensus and presuppositions – all of them mixed together and served from a cup called *worldview*. Thus arises a second question: Whose worldview? Is it that of the child’s parents, teacher, church, local board of education or some national bureaucracy?

This report is based on four assumptions and one pledge:

1. All knowledge and facts have a source, a Creator; they are not self-existent.
2. Religious neutrality is a myth perpetrated by secularists who destroy their own claim the moment they attempt to enforce it.
3. Parents and guardians bear final responsibility for their children’s education, with the inherent right to teach, or to choose teachers and schools, whether institutional or not.
4. No civil government possesses the right to overrule the educational choices of parents and guardians.
5. The CNP Education Committee pledges itself to work toward achievable goals based on uncompromised principles, so that their very success will provoke a popular return to the Judeo-Christian principles of America’s Founders who, along with America’s pioneers, believed that God belonged in the classroom.

With the desire to serve the Trump Administration, and Secretary-designate Betsy DeVos in particular, this committee offers the following recommendations.

* www.goodreads.com/quotes/43693-education-is-simply-the-soul-of-a-society-as-it

Education Reform Plan

Phase I- Federal Level

- 1- Immediate elimination of **Common Core** and all other DOE social engineering programs. End all data collection on students.
- 2- Dismantle the *Federal Department of Education* as soon as possible during Trump administration, and gradually return all responsibilities for public school administration to individual states. Develop position paper on purpose of education in America.
- 3- Argue that a *Federal D.O.E.* is unconstitutional, illegal and contrary to America’s education practice for 300 years from early 17th century to Colonial times.

- 4- Engage College Board for accountability of accuracy/thoroughness in higher education with regards to America's founding and historical education practices.
- 5- Push for *school choice* in all states (over voucher schemes).

Key strategies:

1. Rename the *Department of Education* to *President's Advisory Council on Public Education Reform*, a sub-Cabinet level department whose goal is to become a consulting service to state departments of education.
2. Obtain supporting legal opinions from constitutional experts on the constitutionality of the federal government's role (DOE or otherwise) in developing education policy.
3. Eliminate federal government funding of state-operated schooling, in connection with tax reforms necessary for state-funding of education.
4. Determine which federal programs *may* need temporary continuation, and transfer those programs to another department, e.g., Interior or HHS.
5. Have DOE clearly state its intention to return complete sovereignty of K-12 education, development and operation, to the states.
6. For the duration of the DOE, drain the swamp. Recruit new staff at all levels, from Assistant Secretaries to the mailroom, who fully subscribe to the educational policy the Trump/DeVos team.
7. Mobilize CNP Action and CNP individual members to fully support the dismantling of DOE. Recruit other movement conservatives, conservative and Christian media leaders, and pastors to join the campaign to dismantle DOE.
8. Engage support from Heritage Foundation, www.heritage.org/research/reports/2008/04/a-nation-still-at-risk-the-case-for-federalism-and-school-choice
9. Promote and adhere to the historic definition of education as defined in the 1828 Noah Webster Dictionary:

EDUCATION, n. [L. *educatio*.]

The bringing up, as of a child, instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.

10. Establish relationships with key pastoral networks, to assist in helping churches understand and support this initiative via effective education programs such as www.nehemiahinstitute.com/KingdomSeminar.php.

These networks might include:

American Pastors Network, Sam Rohrer,

www.americanpastorsnetwork.net

Reclaiming America for Christ, Paul Blair,

www.reclaimamericaforchrist.org

U.S. Pastor Council, Dave Welch

www.uspastorcouncil.org

11. Recruit lobbyists like former Congressman Tom DeLay to work on Capitol Hill for this agenda.

If the Trump administration approves a *President's Advisory Council on Public Education Reform* (or similarly named body) to support state departments of education, then Phase II would be implemented with recommendations such as:

PHASE II- State/Local Levels

1. Restore Ten Commandments posters to all K-12 public schools.
2. Clearly post America's Constitution and Declaration of Independence.
3. Encourage K-12 schools to recognize traditional holidays (e.g., Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas) as celebrations of our Judeo-Christian heritage.
4. Implement select Bible classes, such as Chuck Stetson's *Bible Literacy Project*.
5. Encourage instruction on U.S. and World history from the Judeo-Christian perspective for middle school and high school history and civics classes.
6. Develop and recommend In-service training on philosophy of education for K-12 faculty based on historical Judeo-Christian philosophy of education.
7. Strongly push states to remove secular-based sex education materials from school facilities, and emphasize parental instruction.

It is not unreasonable to believe that many state officials will be *emboldened for change* along these lines when the Trump administration is fully in place.

Summary:

Just as the Christian gospel was designed to succeed by acclaim, not by coercion, so must be our every effort. Therefore, these strategies are designed to reform state-level public education, by calling for the elimination of the worst abuses in current state systems. Far better is the promotion of a gradual, voluntary return at all levels to free-market private schools, church schools and

home schools as the *normative American practice*. We believe such a move will benefit the public at-large, open their eyes to the deficiencies of government-run secular education and provide an attractive, superior alternative, as was once the norm in American education.



The “Forgotten Pillar”

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc., having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the 11 of November, in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord, King James, of England, France, and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620.

For their posterity-

“Dramatic and significant is the story of the Pilgrims. On December 21, 1620, the voyaging Mayflower dropped anchor in Plymouth Bay, with Captain Christopher Jones at her helm. It had been a grueling voyage, taking the 120-ton capacity ship sixty-six days to make the perilous crossing. There had been disease, anxiety, and childbirth among the 102 courageous passengers.

Furthermore, they arrived on the black New England shore during a hard winter which ultimately claimed half of their number. However, when spring came and the captain of the Mayflower offered free passage to anyone desiring to return, not a single person accepted.

The fidelity of the forty-one men, who while still aboard the Mayflower had signed the famous Compact beginning with the words, “In ye name of God Amen,” was taking on visible meaning, these chivalrous souls had dedicated themselves to the total causes of freedom. They had come to a wilderness to carve out a better way of life. Faith prompted the voyage; faith sustained the Pilgrims and their religious convictions constrained them to raise their voices in praise. Their hardship, sacrifice, devotion, concept of government, and vigorous religion all remind us of those who sought a country whose builder and maker is God.”

www.oakridgechurch.com/riggs/twelv-sp.htm

Should we not be pilgrims for our posterity?

Note to CNP members: This *Education Reform Report* is available in booklet format for distribution to family, friends and all patriotic Americans, for small fee. Please contact Dan for copies.