



# THE BULLETIN BOARD

NEWSLETTER OF CITIZENS FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

Volume 47, No. 1  
August 2013

Danny Loar, Executive Director  
Rob Tasman, Associate Director • Barbara Bovard, Editor

## 2013 LEGISLATURE A "WIN-WIN" FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA AND PAROCHIAL AND PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Since it is seldom reported, most people are not aware that private and parochial schools in Louisiana save the state's taxpayers more than \$1.05 Billion per year -- and yes, that is a B!

Fortunately, Louisiana lawmakers again this year recognized the contributions of nonpublic schools toward educating 120,000 of its young citizens, and voted to continue state funding of certain nonpublic school programs. In addition, the legislature opted to fully fund and expand participation in the state's extremely popular student scholarship program, increasing it from 5,000 to 8,000 students—a *Win-Win* for the state of Louisiana and parents and students in the nonpublic school sector!

In other matters, we supported several bills after successfully getting them amended to meet certain nonpublic school concerns, e.g.,

- adding Biology II and Chemistry II to the list of acceptable courses for TOPS eligibility,
- sending digital mapping of school campuses to emergency responders,
- steering the private school section of a school crisis management plan to BESE's Nonpublic School Council, and
- amending a daycare licensing bill to require input from BESE's Nonpublic School Council as new regulations are written.

CEC succeeded in defeating a series of unfavorable bills. Among them were attempts

- to allow public school boards constitutionally an option to curtail bus transportation to nonpublic school students,
- to divert scholarship program funding to public school retirement systems, and
- to default on the final payments to schools for student scholarships following the adverse court ruling in March that declared unconstitutional funding of the scholarships through the MFP.

### SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO VOTERVOICE!

A quick and easy way to influence how your state legislators vote is through VoterVoice, CEC's advocacy alert system. It's easy to sign up and use, and you may unsubscribe at any time. Go to our website at [www.louisianacec.org](http://www.louisianacec.org), click the link to VoterVoice and follow the instructions. Periodically, you will receive an email alert urging you to contact your senator or representative or other government official on an issue we are advocating. Sign up today!

## 2013-14 STATE FUNDING FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAMS BRINGS TAX JUSTICE TO PARENT TAXPAYERS

\$ 44,605,579	Student Scholarships for Excellence in Education
14,292,704	Required Services Reimbursements
7,917,607	School Nutrition Salary Supplements
6,882,236	Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development
3,031,805	Textbooks
2,098,629	Education Excellence Fund [Millennium Trust]
960,307	8(g) [La. Education Quality Trust Fund]
591,000	Scholarships for Students with Exceptionalities
<u>179,483</u>	Textbooks Administration
<b>80,559,350</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>

### VALUE OF STATE TAX EXEMPTIONS

17,700,000	Tuition Tax Deduction
2,400,000	Textbooks, Computers and Audio/Visuals
<u>411,000</u>	School Nutrition Programs
<b>20,511,000</b>	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>
<b>\$ 101,070,350</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>



As we kick off our 47th year, we encourage you to support our efforts by remitting annual membership dues. Our goal is *two memberships* from each school which can be in the name of the school, parent or booster club, alumni organization or church. Two membership cards are included with this newsletter.

There are some of schools that apply for and receive *Required Services* reimbursements but do support us with their memberships. *These state funding appropriations don't just happen; they are made to happen! Please join us!*

### "ABOUT Us"

On July 1, 2007, Citizens for Educational Choice assumed the mission of Louisiana Federation, Citizens for Educational Freedom which was founded in 1968. CEF and, subsequently, CEC have successfully advocated passage of numerous legislative measures and funding programs.



### MISSION STATEMENT

*Citizens for Educational Choice is the voice of nonpublic schools at the Louisiana Legislature. It represents the interests and concerns of nonpublic schools in legislative or policy matters that could impact the mission of those schools. It also seeks state budget appropriations for secular programs mandated or benefitting the education of children in private and parochial schools that are approved by the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and are in compliance with Brumfield v. Dodd.*