

## KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Policy Statement on Education and the Churches

Adopted at the 42nd Annual Assembly, October, 1989

The Bible and our faith testify to the worth and dignity of each human being and to God's call to live together in community. As Christians, we believe that all individuals have the right to an education designed to provide the knowledge and skills needed to realize their full potential as human beings created by God and as responsible members of society. Churches are called to work together with public and private schools to foster educational programs for each member of the community.

Children are God's gifts entrusted to us all, and quality education for these children throughout their lives is an essential part of God's ongoing creation. People of God need to work actively to improve public and non-public schools. Our vision is that schools be caring communities where learners are respected and valued as they acquire basic cognitive skills and both personal and social responsibility, and where there is mutual respect between parents and educators.

Because of the pluralistic nature of American society and the diversity of educational needs, there are many models or approaches to providing quality education for all people, and there is a necessity for dialogue between families and educators.

The Kentucky Council of Churches affirms its support for educational models and programs within the Commonwealth which:

1. provide adequate, equitable, and quality educational opportunities for each child, young person, and adult without regard to race/ethnic origin, religion, gender, economic condition, place of residence, or physical or mental capacity;
2. enlarge citizen participation working with school boards and professional educators in determining the goals and objectives of education and provide a larger role for parents, families and guardians in the operations of local and statewide school systems;
3. provide parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff with the resources necessary to nurture learning, and support decisions about school curricula based on professional judgment, scholarship, and effective teaching practices;
4. utilize inclusive educational curricula which avoids stereotypes based on class, race, religion, gender, place of ethnic origin, and physical or mental capacity, and promote justice and dignity for each human being in educational activities, staffing, curricula, sports, and other school-sponsored extra-curricular activities;
5. provide adequate and affordable pre-school care and learning opportunities so that all children can enter school ready and able to learn;
6. focus on raising the educational attainments of students, encouraging learning as a life-long endeavor, and providing each individual with the skills and perspectives necessary to be responsible persons and contributing members of society;
7. uphold academic freedom, including access to ideas and opportunities to consider a broad range of issues and questions;
8. help and encourage individuals to formulate an understanding and appreciation of the role of religion in the life of people in all cultures; and,
9. work in concert with families and churches to develop ethical character and provide opportunities in both school and community for moral learning, family life education and social reflection which celebrate our human worth and dignity and our call to community within and the ethnic richness and religious diversity in the world; and,
10. provide adequate financial support in order to achieve the above goals.