

# Diocese of Providence

## Rhode Island Catholic School Parent Federation

### **Mission Statement**

The Rhode Island Catholic School Parent Federation is committed to education of, advocating for and mobilizing Catholic school parents, public policy-makers and the public at large to ensure that a Catholic education, which fosters Catholic values and academic excellence, is accessible to all who desire it. We are further committed to ensuring that Catholic school students and parents receive all the rights and privileges to which they are entitled by law and under the United States Constitution.

### **Purpose**

1. maintain and defend state and federally mandated services to Catholic schools, their students and parents, including, but not limited to **student transportation, health services, textbook loans, special education services and entitlement grants**; and to seek expansion of these services when the need is established; and,
2. provide parents with access to private and/or public funds **through tax credits or deductions, educational opportunity scholarships, and/or other programs**, especially those families for whom Catholic school tuition is an insurmountable obstacle,

*So that, under the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Providence, a Catholic education **can be provided to all children who desire it, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, residents or income within the region defined.***

**Listed below are the Catholic School Parent Federation legislative or advocacy priorities.**

- Maintain State funded busing, textbook loan program and health services.
- Maintain and work to increase the corporate tax credit for FACE of Rhode Island.
- Educate the public on the general savings to cities and town by having children enrolled in Catholic schools.
- Educate on the true cost of Charter Schools, which although they are an ally in the school parental choice movement, actually increase the tax burden. (This regularly occurs when private school children whom the State and the cities are not paying to educate leave Catholic schools for enrollment in Charter Schools.)
- Work to ensure Catholic school students receive their fair share of Federal Title monies.
- Educate and build support for parental school choice through opportunity scholarships (vouchers) or education savings accounts for economically disadvantaged families.

The parent federation needs your help! Please identify one/two parents from your school who would be willing to work with the Federation board to ensure that these initiatives continue to move forward for your school, and every school. To have a member of the federation speak at your parent group meeting, please contact Ed Bastia at the Catholic School Office.