

## **The Right to Obtain Knowledge (Education)**

Education was important during our Founding. Article 3 of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 states, “Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of humankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.”

In *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, Justice McReynolds placed the Northwest Ordinance’s view on education into the law books when he wrote, “Under the doctrine of *Meyer v. Nebraska*, we think it entirely plain that the Act of 1922 unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control.”

Every family should have the right to choose where their children go to school from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Furthermore, the family’s tax money should follow their child to the school of their choice. Citizens pay property and local sales taxes for this privilege. Parents who homeschool their children should get a tax rebate.

The government should not dictate where children go to school to meet, for example, their diversity objectives. A free choice educational system will enhance competition and make schools better. Ideally, the federal government would play no role in education at all. Instead, these responsibilities should fall to state and local municipalities. For a better educational system, it is essential to eliminate redundancy and red tape associated with layers of government regulation.

Education should focus on teaching all subjects instead of concentrating on a few subjects that require standardized tests. It would also be prudent for education to not only include training for higher education, but trade school options for children not wanting to go to college. Education is the great equalizer in society, not diversity standards. That means if everyone is provided the same access to an education, then everyone has the same chance to have an unfettered start in the race of life.