

Building and Battling

BCSA Legislative Program  
for 2001

and related matters

12/6/00

a summary of  
**BCSA's Political Philosophy**  
6/6/2000

**A. What is the relationship of the local church (including it's ministries) to civil government?**

- 1) The church is immune from civil government control, versus exempt. (Exemption implies a higher authority's granting to or taking away privileges from a lower authority.)
- 2) The [family and] church is ordered by God to educate children and is not to get permission from the government.
- 3) The role of civil government is **protection - not education**.

**B. What is BCSA's "political action plan" ?**

- 1) Monitor (what's going on).
- 2) Pray and preach.
- 3) Be there (know the magistrates, and be known to them).
- 4) "Humiliate (selves before God), educate, negotiate, legislate, litigate" – in that order.

**C. What are BCSA's objectives with the Ohio Department of Education?**

- 1) Preserve the "08" status.
- 2) Care for all the children and people of Ohio. (We are continually asking, "How will this policy affect the family?" The further from the parents educational decisions are made, the worse those decisions.)

**D. What are the main principles (our convictions)?**

- 1) The home and church are God's teaching institutions; the state is not. (Remember the three spheres.)
- 2) The home and church are to teach what they believe God wants, without state control or leadership.
- 3) The home and church are willing to share certain information with the civil government, as among equals, to help the state fulfill its role (of protection).
- 4) True separation of church and state means that each is a separate jurisdiction, not controlling each others' affairs. It does not mean God and His principles are kept out of either sphere.
- 5) The church reports to parents concerning children.

**E. Is BCSA interested in anything beyond preserving our absolute convictions?**

Yes, we also are interested in maintaining and expanding our civil freedoms in general.

(The "08" section allows parents to have another option for educating their children.)

**F. Wherein is the local church willing to notify the state?**

1) We are willing to notify (share information with) the state of our existence.

2) We are not willing to report to the state (as in a lesser to a greater).

**G. What is our attitude toward changing the current wording of "08"?**

Wording is important. The wording of the current 08 section was paid for with much "blood, sweat, and tears." Every word means something. We should not give up the current standards - *change nothing*.

(What good thing is to be gained by changing wording which has worked so well for seventeen years? A tremendous price of time and energy, life and resources was paid to work out the current wording. What is to be gained by changing wording to enable the wording of one section of the administrative code to line up with the wording of another? We don't understand what all the wording changes will mean; neither does the state.)

## **expanded BCSA political action plan**

**goal:** maintain (and expand) political freedom (protection) for fulfillment of: the Great Commission (teaching all things), family responsibilities (child ed, training), and God's moral law (state enforcement of)

**plan** (evaluate bi-annually):

pray (I Tim. 2:1,2; Dan. 4:35)

preach and teach the Word: make the truth (which makes you free) known (Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom.)

- by speaking before legislative, board, and department committee meetings
- by talking to legislators and aides and DOE/BOE members after (and before) committee meetings and in their offices
- by talking to key administrative officials (especially DOE and BOE wherein lies wall of "08" protection); often if they are simply made aware of our concerns, they serve us
- by keeping vision alive (and expanding) with BCSA board, pastors, administrators, and families (writing articles, e-mails)
- by preaching-teaching word at Legislative Bible Study
- by facilitating ("demanding") an AACS political action plan
- by promoting patriotism (and involvement) in our youth

presence - be there (salt and light)

- by knowing and being known by magistrates (attend BOE monthly meetings, key DOE meetings, House-Senate educational committee meetings and others as able; visit governor's office)
- by monitoring legislation, DOE papers (identify key issues and legislation to follow and influence: eg, minimum standards)

bimonthly report for period \_\_\_\_\_

praying always with all prayer

**BCSA Legislative Action Plan**

Be there, building and battling, praying and preaching

- \_\_\_\_\_ Attended regular meetings of the State Board of Education, knowing, and becoming known, to its members, and regularly communicating our philosophy.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conducted weekly Legislative Bible Study (when the Assembly was in session).
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attended quarterly meetings of the Superintendent's Non-Public Advisory Committee, communicating our philosophy to the Department of Education personnel and to the other private school representatives.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attended weekly House and Senate Education Committee meetings, knowing and becoming known to the Representatives and Senators and their aides, and communicating our philosophy.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed all new bill entries, keeping BCSA posted, anticipating problems and blessings.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stopped by Governor's office, knowing and becoming known to its personnel.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wrote article for "BCSA Newsletter" pertaining to "battling."
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Involved students.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ Strengthened national effort (AACs).

## Why We Refuse to be Chartered and Certified by the State of Ohio

The Scriptures read, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s (Mk. 12:17).” God entrusted the training and teaching (the education) of the children to the home (Pro. 22:6; Eph. 6:4, et al) and to the church (Mt. 28:19,20; Eph. 4:1-32), but not to the state (Rom. 13:1-7).

Our convictions are respected by the state and our schools are provided legal protection and respect. Our schools are classified as “nonchartered, nontax-supported” schools. The credits of students enrolled in our schools are accepted by “public” schools (and chartered private schools) should these students transfer. Students who graduate from our schools do so with diplomas recognized and respected by businesses, colleges and trade schools, and the community at large. Some colleges, nursing schools, and military specialties have been known to require students from any nonchartered school to take the GED. While we find this inconvenient, our convictions, freedom, and academic success mean more to us than becoming part of the state system.

### Helpful Quotes

Two warnings from the past on the dangers of education without God:

“I am much afraid that schools will prove to be great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the Word of God must become corrupt.”

Martin Luther

“I am as sure as I am of the fact of Christ’s reign that a comprehensive and centralized system of national education, separated from religion as is now commonly proposed, will prove to be the most appalling enginery for the propagation of antiChristian and atheistic unbelief...which this sin-rent world has ever seen”

A. A. Hodge, 1870

English philosopher, John Stuart Mill, in his famous treatise, On Liberty, written in 1859, saw the dangers of state control all too clearly:

“A general state education is a mere contrivance for moulding people to be exactly like one another, and as the mould in which it casts them is that which pleases the predominant power in the government...it establishes a despotism over the mind, leading by natural tendency to one over the body.”

Samuel Blumenfeld writes in the *Compelling State Fraud*:

“Christians must begin challenging the entire concept of “compelling state interest.” If the state truly has a “compelling interest:” in seeing that children get a good education, it should first provide that education in the schools it presently owns and controls. If the “state” cannot satisfy the “compelling interest” in its own schools, it is obviously not fit to regulate anyone else’s schools.”

Joseph McAuliffe writes in *Dominion Work* (“Taxing Churches”):

“The church really doesn’t receive an exemption from the state – it is immune from taxation because of spheres; ie., its relationship to God.”

Pierce vs. the Society of Sisters:

“The fundamental theory of liberty excludes any general power of the state to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teaching only. The child is not a mere creature of the state.”

November 15, 2000

State Board of Education – public hearing  
Comments concerning proposed standards

Thank you for retaining the “08” section which has worked so well and has given Ohio parents the option of unentangled church-operated schools.

Please delete any reference to “08” schools in the definition section of the proposed standards, particularly the reference under “credentialed staff.” Teacher qualifications for nonchartered, non-tax supported schools are noted already in the “08” section. The new reference in the definitions section is neither necessary nor clarifying; in fact, it is confusing. If it were worded the same in the definitions section as in the “08” section, it would be less confusing, but it would still be unnecessary and confusing. Please delete any reference to “08” schools in the definition section of the proposed standards, particularly the reference under “credentialed staff.”

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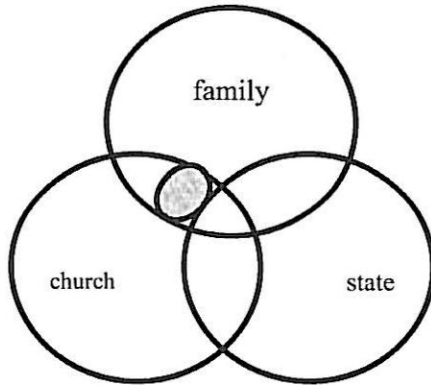
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January 30, 2001

## The Authority Relationship of Home, Church, and State

“There is no authority but of God” (Romans 13:1).



The family was established by God to provide companionship, to teach and train children, and to show the relationship of Jesus Christ and His people (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 5:21-6:4).

The state was established by God to administer justice and to protect the home and the church in the administration of their responsibilities, namely teaching and training (Genesis 9:6; Romans 13:1-7). The state is not a teaching institution. (Education is inherently religious. Education consists of knowledge, values, beliefs, priorities, and morality.)

The church was established by God for the purposes of teaching (and propagating) the truth, to children and adults (Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 28:18-20). The church reports to God in the fulfillment of its teaching responsibilities and not to the state.

In 1983, we agreed to notify the state and not to register with the state, and we desire to maintain that position. The current wording of the rule, using the word “notification” is good.

March 27, 2001

How is the Lima Christian Academy accountable?

## **The Accountability Piece for Non-chartered, Non-tax Supported Schools**

1. **Church-operated schools are accountable to God**, the Word of God and the Spirit of God, by the “rightly-divided” application of the scriptures (II Timothy 2:15) by key “stakeholders,” including pastors, church boards, and parents.

(Those charged with over-seeing the spiritual direction of those young have more than an academic interest in the welfare of students in their schools.)

2. **Church-operated schools are accountable to local church authority.** (Local church authority which is derived from God is administered usually through a board and resides in the congregation.) The scriptures assign responsibility for the oversight of educational programs to individual local churches and not to regional, national, or otherwise non-local church authority. Individual churches may (scripturally) invite outside groups to evaluate their programs, if they so choose, However, nothing should be promoted which reduces the local church’s authority to make all curriculum decisions, to have or not to have written “continuous progress” plans, or to hire whom they choose. Especially inconsistent is subordinating or otherwise connecting a local church’s educational program with outside groups which are directly or indirectly connected to the state. A local church authority has no more scriptural basis to invite outside evaluation of its teaching than it does of its preaching.
3. **Church-operated schools are accountable to parents.** Parents are free to enroll their children or withdraw them as they personally evaluate the school. This major accountability piece is relatively non-existent in public schools. Non-chartered, non-tax supported schools receive no tax dollars (Parents of students attending non-tax supported schools pay taxes to fund public and private chartered schools in addition to their support of their children’s schools.) Rather than a handful of state officials periodically evaluating the school, scores of parents who are even more interested in the academic welfare of the children are constantly evaluating each school.

4. **Church-operated schools are accountable to others** outside their local assemblies. Not only are they accountable to parents and the local church, but they also have some accountability to believers outside the local church and to the larger civil community.
  - a. Christian leaders in local churches will counsel with and confront leaders in other local churches where deficiencies are observed in their many interactions.
  - b. Christian educator conferences provide on-going opportunities for schools and staff to be confronted with the living Word of God which is the most powerful developing-accountability tool available.
  - c. The state is notified of the existence of church-operated schools, and the general public is able and is invited to observe programs (and daily operations) of the school first-hand.
  - d. Standardized test scores are published, including college admission test scores.