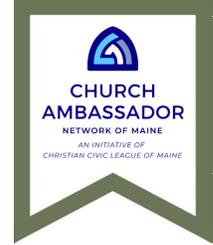


EDUCATION IN MAINE





EDUCATION IN MAINE

In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of the Christian Education League, we hold to the teachings of the Bible that God created government for our good. When government does its job well the people are blessed, and that is exactly what we want to see in the State of Maine.

Education serves at the heart of building stronger communities in the State of Maine. We can see the results of how education systems have shaped countless generations of Mainers in communities all around us. Our state is only as strong as our next generation. We need to prepare the next generation of Mainers to be successful, well-equipped citizens, by pursuing educational opportunities that truly benefit and educate students.



EDUCATION STATISTICS



2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

158

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN MAINE

603

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN MAINE

19,085

STUDENTS SERVED

166,609

STUDENTS SERVED

<https://neo.maine.gov/DOE/neo/Supersearch/ContactSearch/SearchForMaineSchools>, <https://www.privateschoolreview.com/maine>, and <https://www.maine.gov/doe/data-reporting/reporting/warehouse/enrollment>

THERE ARE WELL OVER

10,100

HOMESCHOOLED
STUDENTS IN MAINE.

Homeschooling in Maine
has INCREASED by

80%

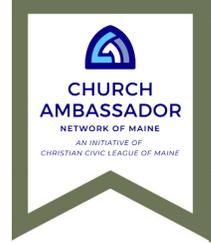
over the last 5 years
& continues to grow!

<https://www.maine.gov/doe/data-reporting/reporting/warehouse/enrollment>
and <https://www.homeschoolersofmaine.org/>

10%

OF ALL K-12 STUDENTS IN MAINE,
10% ARE EDUCATED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS
CONSISTENT WITH THE
10% NATIONAL AVERAGE.

<https://www.privateschoolreview.com/maine>



BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION

PARENTS ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATING THEIR CHILDREN.

The Bible teaches that parents are ultimately responsible for their children, and one of the primary responsibilities of parents is teaching and training their children. Parents are responsible to train their children in every area of life for both personal and societal flourishing. Parents have the highest interest in their children's success, and a community thrives when parents are able to choose the best path for fulfilling the command to educate their children. We need an education system that greatly respects, honors and encourages the parent's responsibility to educate their own children.



"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Deuteronomy 6:6-7

EDUCATION IS DESIGNED TO START STUDENTS ON THE RIGHT PATH FOR LIFE.

Education is an incredible tool for training the next generation of children. Any education system needs to assist parents in building a foundational path for children to follow for the remainder of life. Our education system must inspire a sense of wonder and a love of learning which will translate into instilling life-skills that equip our children for future success.



"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

GOVERNMENT IS DESIGNED TO SERVE PEOPLE, NOT FOR PEOPLE TO SERVE GOVERNMENT.

Government is a gracious gift from God, designed for our good.

The U.S. Constitution does not identify government regulation or subsidization of education as a role of government.

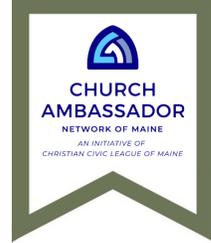
The Maine State Constitution requires "towns to support public schools...at their own expense". It further allows for state funding of literary institutions, provided that the government is then granted regulatory powers over state-funded institutions.

State laws and the Department of Education (DOE) have greatly amplified the government's involvement and control of education, including education standards, attendance requirements, and curriculum standards.

True freedom means a person can pursue happiness and the best path to meet their families' needs. So as we seek to uphold the Constitution, we must promote proper function of government in every area, including education. Government must hold the interests of those it was designed to serve above the interests of the institution, and its powers must not supersede the Constitutional boundaries and limits provided for the good of those it serves.



"For government is God's servant for your good." Romans 13:4



PEOPLE ARE BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL BEINGS.

The Bible teaches that people are both physical and spiritual beings. As a result, people have both spiritual and physical needs. Maine’s children are no different. If we are to grow the next generation of Mainers, it is imperative that we invest in them both spiritually and physically. It is important that education systems factor in both the physical and spiritual needs of a child.



“Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth and made of dust; the second man is from heaven.” 1 Corinthians 15:44-47

CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO BETTER THEIR COMMUNITIES.

God has called Christians to seek the welfare of the city. Schools lie at the center of our cities, as they are preparing the next generation. We cannot seek the welfare of a city without investing in the city’s future. We must pursue educational opportunities that invest in the city's future interests, as a result preserving the welfare of the city.



“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7

GOD HAS CALLED US TO FACTOR IN THE NEEDS OF THE POOR.

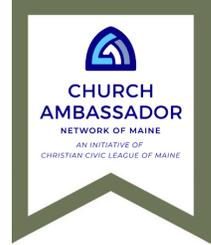
Not all of Maine’s children are growing up in homes with economic means, and many Maine children are growing up in homes without family infrastructure. As we build an education system, we must factor in all Mainers, including the least among us. Education is one of Maine youth’s greatest resources in leaving behind poverty. We need educational opportunities to exist that serve all Maine children and families, regardless of social-economic status.



“For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’” Deuteronomy 15:11



“...if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Sit here in a good place,’ and yet you say to the poor person, ‘Stand over there,’ or ‘Sit here on the floor by my footstool,’ haven’t you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?” James 2:3-4



URBAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN MAINE



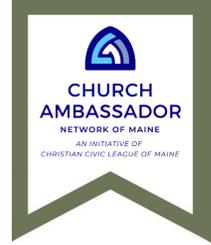
Temple Academy

Temple Academy has been educating students for over 40 years, with curriculum & instruction grounded in a thoroughly Christian, Biblical worldview. A small student body enables faculty and staff to interact closely with each student, guiding them through their rigorous academic program, equipping them for the next step on their journey. The school is set apart not only for academic excellence, but also for their genuine interest in working with students to discover and develop the unique gifting & calling on their lives. Values & interests taught at home are reinforced at school through strong partnerships between parents and staff, giving students a solid foundation to carry with them beyond their years at Temple Academy. The school has remained steadfast in their pursuit of making a traditional, quality education, where traditional values are taught, morning pledges recited, and upstanding moral character expected, available & affordable to families throughout Central Maine.



GREATER PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Greater Portland Christian School is an independent, multi-denominational, college-preparatory day school. They provide a distinctively Christian education which complements the home & church, brings a Biblical perspective to every subject, and helps parents prepare their children for a God-glorifying life. GPCS is a Christian institution, founded and maintained for God's glory above all other considerations. To achieve their highest goal of directing students to worship their Creator and Savior through learning, they partner with Christian parents & churches in training students to view every subject and every aspect of life through the lens of God's Word, the Bible—to think Biblically about their world, and then to live in harmony with that Biblical perspective. GPCS parents choose this school for their children because of their Christian worldview, competent, caring faculty who share their Biblical values, the strong academic program, small class sizes, extracurricular opportunities, & supportive community atmosphere.



The purpose of Bangor Christian School is to assist families in educating the whole child by encouraging spiritual maturity and academic excellence in a supportive environment, with final authority in all matters resting with the Word of God. BCS wants students to experience God's love in a personal way so that they are truly prepared for life, to grow in their faith, have a positive impact in their world for Christ, and actively serve in their churches and communities. Every facet of BCS' program focuses on understanding God, His creation, and His purpose for humanity, leading students to accept their responsibility to each. Their mission is to provide academic excellence, meaning that they provide the best instruction to help each student achieve at his or her God-given ability level. Bangor Christian Schools prepares students to be responsible citizens who fulfill their God-given potential.

I first came to Bangor Christian in the fall of 1975. Even though I was raised in a wonderful Christian home, and attended a solid, Bible-believing church, I was involved in some very destructive and selfish behavior my freshman and sophomore years. I actually asked my mom and dad if I could attend Bangor Christian because I knew I was heading for trouble if I had stayed in public school. I don't know where I would be today if it were not for the love and support that I received from my schoolmates and teachers at Bangor Christian those last two years of high school. There is no doubt in my mind that those two years at Bangor Christian influenced me to get involved in Christian education. I wanted other young people to experience an education that centered on Christ in an environment that supported what was being taught by their parents."

Carroll Conley, Former Principal of BCS, Now Executive Director for the Christian Civic League of Maine

Parents of a High School student: "We have sent our daughter to BCS for the past 9 years because we wanted her academic education to be sifted through the lens of Scripture. Although it is primarily our job as her parents to teach and model the truths of Scripture, we have been blessed to have the BCS staff and teachers as an extension & support in that endeavor. We love knowing that she is getting a top notch academic education in a loving & safe environment from teachers who love her and are invested in training and challenging her both academically and spiritually. The value we find in this is priceless."

Parents of a High School student at Bangor Christian School



Homeschooling builds family relationships, allows parents to impart Biblical values and worldview to their children, and provides a safe, healthy learning environment.

" . . . We are a country founded upon rugged individualism, extraordinary creativity & ingenuity . . .

Nearly 200 years after [Alexis] de Tocqueville's visit to our country where he witnessed engaged, intelligent, well informed youngsters, who were educated at home, we are now seeing a resurgence of that same spirit.

Home Education is on the rise with compelling evidence of its success . . . Home Education is the most de-centralized approach to education. No one-size fits all!

. . . According to the National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI), homeschoolers outperform traditionally educated students by 15-30% on achievement tests. These families have the liberty to allow their children to 'shoot for the stars, knowing they might hit the moon.' Their imagination is their only limitation. Elite universities & colleges have begun to actively recruit homeschoolers [for] two major reasons. They are proven, engaged, self-motivated learners. Additionally, since they tend to be very civic minded, they are active on campus & are often leaders."

Rep. Heidi Sampson, lead Republican - Education & Cultural Affairs Committee, former member of the Maine State Board of Education & of the Charter Commission, Veteran Homeschooler



AN INITIATIVE OF
THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION LEAGUE