



## Education

### Theological Reflection

- All persons have dignity and deserve to share society's resources in an equitable manner.
- Each human being is endowed with potential, none are more worthy than others.
- It is society's responsibility to give all our children the opportunity to reach their full potential
- Public education is the basic system without which this equal opportunity cannot be realized.
- It is the responsibility of the government to see that equitable public education is available to all children.

**New York State Constitution, Article XI Section 1.** *The legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of this state may be educated.*

### Background

- New York State's current school funding formula has resulted in great discrepancy in educational opportunities between New York's richest and poorest school districts.
- This led to a court case (CFE v. NY) which mandated that the funding system be reformed so all schools would have the resources to provide all their students with a sound basic education.



## Education

### Theological Reflection

- All persons have dignity and deserve to share society's resources in an equitable manner.
- Each human being is endowed with potential, none are more worthy than others.
- It is society's responsibility to give all our children the opportunity to reach their full potential
- Public education is the basic system without which this equal opportunity cannot be realized.
- It is the responsibility of the government to see that equitable public education is available to all children.

**New York State Constitution, Article XI Section 1.** *The legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of this state may be educated.*

### Background

- New York State's current school funding formula has resulted in great discrepancy in educational opportunities between New York's richest and poorest school districts.
- This led to a court case (CFE v. NY) which mandated that the funding system be reformed so all schools would have the resources to provide all their students with a sound basic education.



## Education

### Theological Reflection

- All persons have dignity and deserve to share society's resources in an equitable manner.
- Each human being is endowed with potential, none are more worthy than others.
- It is society's responsibility to give all our children the opportunity to reach their full potential
- Public education is the basic system without which this equal opportunity cannot be realized.
- It is the responsibility of the government to see that equitable public education is available to all children.

**New York State Constitution, Article XI Section 1.** *The legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of this state may be educated.*

### Background

- New York State's current school funding formula has resulted in great discrepancy in educational opportunities between New York's richest and poorest school districts.
- This led to a court case (CFE v. NY) which mandated that the funding system be reformed so all schools would have the resources to provide all their students with a sound basic education.

- A sound basic education includes facilities that are structurally sound, adequately heated and lighted, have enough desks, chairs, textbooks for students enrolled, and adequately trained teachers.
- New York State appealed the decision and lost the appeal in late 2006.

**Present Situation**

The Governor’s 2007 proposal

- Calls for \$7 billion in new statewide investment in public schools over the next four years. New investment will
  - be spread throughout New York State
  - emphasize help for neediest districts.
- Replaces New York State’s present school aid formula with one that is simplified and equitable
- Increases State Aid to every public school district.
- Expands measures of educational success to include high school graduation rates and college enrollment
- Calls for new accountability measures (i.e. smaller class sizes, increased student time on task, full-day pre-kindergarten, teacher quality initiatives, and middle school and high school restructuring).

**What Will Help**

Support for Governor Spitzer’s Education Reform proposal

(3/07)

- A sound basic education includes facilities that are structurally sound, adequately heated and lighted, have enough desks, chairs, textbooks for students enrolled, and adequately trained teachers.
- New York State appealed the decision and lost the appeal in late 2006.

**Present Situation**

The Governor’s 2007 proposal

- Calls for \$7 billion in new statewide investment in public schools over the next four years. New investment will
  - be spread throughout New York State
  - emphasize help for neediest districts.
- Replaces New York State’s present school aid formula with one that is simplified and equitable
- Increases State Aid to every public school district.
- Expands measures of educational success to include high school graduation rates and college enrollment
- Calls for new accountability measures (i.e. smaller class sizes, increased student time on task, full-day pre-kindergarten, teacher quality initiatives, and middle school and high school restructuring).

**What Will Help**

Support for Governor Spitzer’s Education Reform proposal

(3/07)

**Member Denominations**

American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Empire Baptist Missionary Convention, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.

- A sound basic education includes facilities that are structurally sound, adequately heated and lighted, have enough desks, chairs, textbooks for students enrolled, and adequately trained teachers.
- New York State appealed the decision and lost the appeal in late 2006.

**Present Situation**

The Governor’s 2007 proposal

- Calls for \$7 billion in new statewide investment in public schools over the next four years. New investment will
  - be spread throughout New York State
  - emphasize help for neediest districts.
- Replaces New York State’s present school aid formula with one that is simplified and equitable
- Increases State Aid to every public school district.
- Expands measures of educational success to include high school graduation rates and college enrollment
- Calls for new accountability measures (i.e. smaller class sizes, increased student time on task, full-day pre-kindergarten, teacher quality initiatives, and middle school and high school restructuring).

**What Will Help**

Support for Governor Spitzer’s Education Reform proposal

(3/07)

**Member Denominations**

American Baptist Churches, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Empire Baptist Missionary Convention, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, Religious Society of Friends, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church.