



Dear Lasallian Educators,

On the occasion of Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 27 – Feb. 2), we celebrate the work of our Lasallian Schools.

In addition to sponsoring Catholic Schools Week, the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) has also declared Wednesday, January 30, 2013, as “National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools” and is encouraging all elementary and secondary schools to spread the good news of how Catholic education benefits the nation to members of the 113th Congress.

To that end, we join NCEA in encouraging all schools to contact members of Congress in Washington, DC with letters from parents, teachers, administrators, and students. For example:

- Students might tell a story about why they value their Catholic education.
- Teachers might explain their reasons for choosing to teach in Catholic schools.
- Principals could discuss parental involvement in schools, test scores, or graduation rates.
- Parents could outline the reasons for sending their children to Catholic schools. They can address the importance of legislation that assists all parents, but especially low and middle income parents in exercising their right to choose the school they believe will best meet their child's needs.

All letters should be emailed or faxed directly to your local legislator's office on Capitol Hill by February 2nd, the last day of Catholic Schools Week.

To aid our Lasallian Chief Administrators in contacting Congressional Leaders, [I have attached a draft letter for your convenience](#). Feel free to edit or change in any way that reflects your own specific concerns. I have also included [a card which you can download and print](#) which highlights the Qualities of Lasallian Education on side 1 and the story of Saint John Baptist de La Salle on side 2. It is my hope that thousands of letters filled with reasons to support Catholic schools will reach Capitol Hill during Catholic Schools Week.

To determine your local legislator, please feel free to use the website for the Council for American Private Education (CAPE). By clicking [here](#), you will be taken to an interactive map, you can type in your zip code, and look up contact information if you are sending correspondence by fax or mail, or you can communicate directly via email or tweet to your Congressional leaders directly from this website.

Thank you for being a part of the Lasallian Educational Mission. I hope you will join me this week in making our voices heard in support of Catholic Education.

Together and by Association,

Dr. Margaret (Maggie) McCarty
Executive Director
Office of Lasallian Education