



Policy Academy Curriculum

# ***Fighting for Education Freedom***

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## Policy Academy Curriculum Fighting For Education Freedom

In this Independent Women Policy Academy lesson, you'll learn about state and federal education freedom policies. Public education does not have to mean a monopoly of one-size-fits-all government schools with little accountability, especially when they teach material that is ideologically compromised or pedagogically unsound. Instead, public education can mean investing in students and families directly and providing them with opportunities and options. Education freedom prioritizes students over systems and allows funding to follow the child to the education option that best meets his or her needs.

**Review the following course materials:**

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## The Education Freedom Movement: Past and Present

In this video, Ginny Gentles, Independent Women senior fellow and director of the Education Freedom and Parental Rights Initiative at the Defense of Freedom Institute, discusses the **Education Freedom Movement: Past and Present** with educator scholar, Jay Greene, and school choice and parent advocate, Virginia Walden Ford. Click [HERE](#) to watch.

*Policy Chat*

**The Education Freedom Movement:  
Past and Present**

April 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm EST

**Ginny Gentles**  
Director  
Education Freedom Center  
Independent Women's  
Forum

**Jay P. Greene, PhD**  
Senior Research Fellow,  
Center for Education Policy  
The Heritage Foundation

**Virginia Walden Ford**  
Education Advocate and  
Author



## The Crisis in American K-12 Education

Parents want and deserve power over their children's education, but education bureaucrats and unions hold all the power in areas without education freedom. Click [HERE](#) to read Ginny's **congressional testimony** about the crisis in American K-12 education—alarming learning loss; pervasive discipline and mental health issues; school systems determined to view parents as the enemy; and powerful teachers' unions and education bureaucracies that reject transparency and accountability, yet relentlessly demand more funding. Students and parents deserve education freedom!



**COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION &  
THE WORKFORCE**

**Hearing on American  
Education Opportunities**



Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>  
10:15 am EST

featuring  
**Ginny Gentles**  
Director  
Education Freedom Center  
Independent Women's Forum



## Putting Parents in Control of Their Children's Education

Since 2021, 12 states have enacted universal or near-universal school choice. All families should have the power to direct their children's educational paths. Click [HERE](#) to read the policy focus and learn about the driving factors that led to parents demanding reforms to give them more and better options.



# POLICY FOCUS

JANUARY 2025

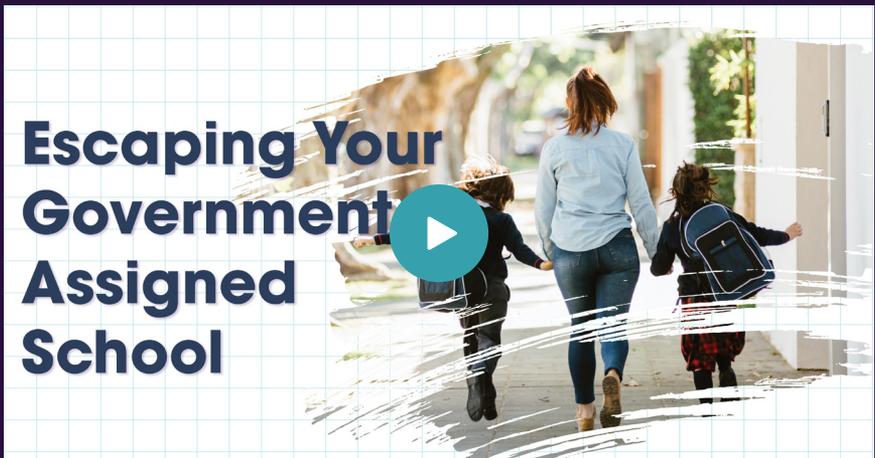
## School Choice in the States

By Dr. Keri D. Ingraham, Senior Fellow



## Navigating Education Options

Independent Women's **Education Freedom Center** encourages the creation of educational options that focus on academic achievement and create healthy environments for students to learn and thrive. We support a wide array of school choice policies that increase parents' leverage—including scholarships, charter schools, homeschooling, microschools, and education savings accounts. Click **HERE** to listen to our **conversation** with the National School Choice Week team about navigating education options.



## How Education Freedom Benefits Public Schools

Education freedom is a rising tide that lifts all boats. In this Two Truths and a Lie, you'll learn about the benefits of school choice to teachers and to the students and families who remain in public schools. Click [HERE](#) to read the blog.

two

TRUTHS

and a LIE



*can you spot the lie?*





## Debunking Education Freedom Myths

But what about the impact on public school finances and private school autonomy? Should **homeschoolers** be concerned about the government strings attached to government dollars? Ginny covers these topics and more in this conversation with Corey DeAngelis about common misconceptions about education freedom. Click [HERE](#) to watch.

A video thumbnail for a "Policy Chat" titled "Debunking Education Freedom Myths During National School Choice Week". The background is dark green with a subtle pattern. At the top right is a logo of a white dove with wings spread, surrounded by the words "National School Choice Week". In the center, there are two circular headshots: one of Ginny Gentles on the left and one of Corey DeAngelis on the right. Between the headshots is a white play button icon inside a blue circle. Below each headshot is a yellow horizontal line, followed by the person's name in bold yellow text, their title in white text, and their affiliation in white text.

*Policy Chat*

Debunking Education Freedom Myths During National School Choice Week

**Ginny Gentles**  
Director  
Education Freedom Center  
Independent Women's Forum

**Corey DeAngelis**  
Senior Fellow  
American Federation  
for Children





## 2024 State Legislative Session Recap

Numerous school choice programs were created or expanded during the 2024 state legislative sessions. Independent Women's Network members engaged through action alerts, op-eds, and state legislative testimony.

- VICTORY! Urge Virginia Senators To Oppose The Attack On Homeschooling. Click [HERE](#) to read.
- Are You for BOTH School Choice AND Better Public Schools? Click [HERE](#) to read.
- Independent Women's Network Fairfax County, VA Chapter Leader Challenges Local School Board For Gender Ideology Indoctrination And Bloated Salaries. Click [HERE](#) to read.





## Optional Additional Resources

Now that you've done the work, click [HERE](#) to take the quiz to test your knowledge and see if you're an expert on this issue.

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Check out this [How to Talk About: Education Freedom](#) guide from Independent Women's Voice, where you'll find fast facts and common misperceptions about school choice.

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This [Debate Prep from Independent Women's Network](#) (and [HERE](#)) also gives you some talking points on education freedom to respond with whenever this issue comes up in everyday conversations!

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The early episodes of the Independent Women's [Students Over Systems podcast](#) focused on education freedom history. Each episode ends with the guest dispelling the school choice myth that bothers them the most. Click [HERE](#) to watch.

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Additional Reading:

- [Policy Focus: School Choice in the States](#)
- [Policy Focus: Learning Loss](#)
- School choice op-eds by [Independent Women Fellow Keri Ingraham](#)
- Education Freedom Center [school choice op-eds and blogs](#)



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- @IWF
- @IWV
- @IWN
- @neerajadeshp
- @KeriDIngraham (*Independent Women Visiting Fellow*)





## About the Education Freedom Center

The Education Freedom Center advances reforms to unleash a more vibrant education marketplace. We support education funding following students to the education option that best meets their needs. We seek to encourage and inform parents considering educational options for their children. And we amplify the voices of parents who are seeking education flexibility, freedom and opportunity.

The center also informs the public about education policies that harm students and disempower parents. We encourage the creation of educational options that focus on academic achievement and create healthy environments for students to learn and thrive. We support a wide array of school choice policies that increase parents' leverage—including scholarships, charter schools, homeschooling, microschools, and education savings accounts.

Follow our work and get the latest updates:

[iwf.org/efc](https://iwf.org/efc)

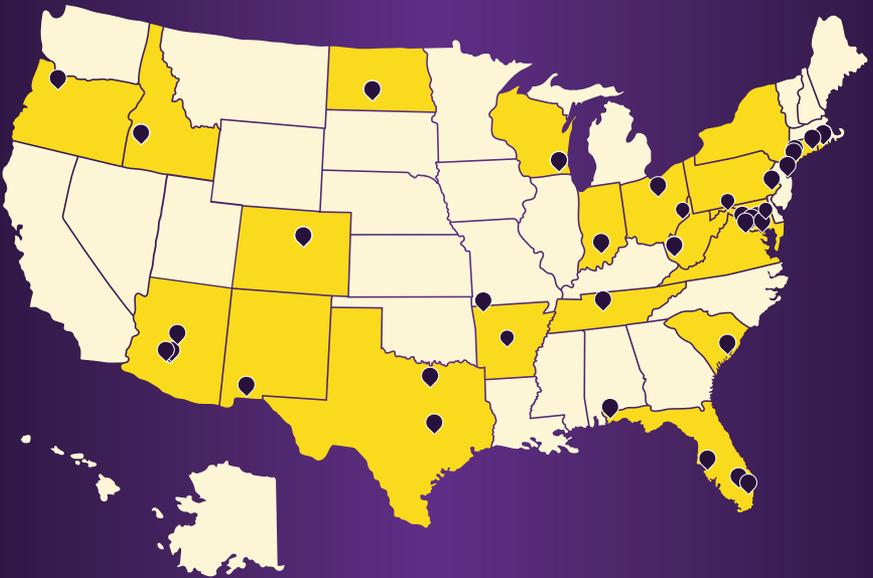


Your membership investment in Independent Women's Network supports Independent Women's policy work, awareness advocacy efforts, and events like these.

**INVEST TODAY!**

## Interested in Starting a Chapter in Your Community?

We are looking for women who are passionate about improving their communities by advancing policies to create a better future. If that sounds like you, email us at [chapters@iwnetwork.com](mailto:chapters@iwnetwork.com) to get started.



**START A CHAPTER**

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