

Family



Research Council

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Restoring parental rights to their original firm foundation in U.S. constitutional law is crucial to our overall efforts to reinvigorate the democratic ideal of citizenship.

—from *FRC's Moms' and Dads' School Survival Guide*

Dear Friend:

A few weeks ago Carol and I drove our oldest daughter, Elyse, back to college for her second year of studies. It was wonderful to have her home for the summer, and saying good-bye was really hard. The summer months flew by, reminding us once more how precious is the time that we have together as a family. Even though Elyse attends college only a few hours' drive from our home outside Washington, D.C.—close enough for us to see her on some weekends—she's still much farther away than we would prefer.

Millions of families go through this emotional ritual each September, and it doesn't really matter that much whether your child is heading off to college, high school, or to a nearby elementary school classroom. Each fall mothers and fathers face the same anxieties and pressures: how will my children fare in school? Will their teachers recognize their special qualities? Will teachers honor and respect their talents and beliefs or will they try to convince them to “question authority” and reject the values they have been taught? What about their classmates? Will they make friends? Will those friends help uphold their faith? Or will their faith be weakened? Or worse, will our children be led into trouble? Is there anyone out there besides us who really understands the worth of our beloved children?

Today, questions like these are being asked by every parent and they unfortunately have a special sharpness to them. Many of our nation's schools are no longer the “common ground” of shared values and aspirations that generations of families counted on them to be in the past. All too often, today's classrooms are laboratories for radical ideological experimentation. The teaching profession has been politicized as never before. Textbooks and lesson plans routinely foster a liberal world view. Attempts to isolate, intimidate and confuse religiously inclined students continue. Violence and illegal drugs are found even in elementary schools. The “safe sex” philosophy still dominates sex education.

I'm sure you're familiar with the statistics on educational decline, so I won't repeat them here. The public education establishment routinely goes out of its way to question the depth of the problem, but, in the