

A Litany for Education and Schools

LEADER: *Will the teachers, school administrators, counselors, school volunteers, support staff, cafeteria workers, school bus drivers, and all others who work in our schools, who are able, please stand at this time.*

Today we remember the children and youth of this congregation and those involved in their education. The call to be involved in education is a high calling. Those who teach our children help shape the future. We give thanks to a gracious God for the teachers, school administrators, counselors, school volunteers, support staff, cafeteria workers, school bus drivers and all others in our congregation who educate our children and who make that education as safe, healthy, and effective as possible.

PEOPLE: **We celebrate your calling and pledge to support you and others in our communities who are involved in the education of children and youth.** *(Educators may be seated.)*

LEADER: *As we recognize those who serve in schools, we also recognize those who teach at home — a role that is even more active now. Will guardians and parents of our children and youth please stand, as you are able.*

Education involves a partnership between school, home and community. The support of parents and guardians is essential to a child's success. Today we recognize you for the support you give the students in your home. We hold in prayer all those in this church who have students at home. We pray that all our homes will be places where learning is valued and encouragement offered.

PEOPLE: **We pledge our support to parents and guardians. We pray that our ministries will encourage and strengthen those in our church**

families who provide care for children.

(Parents and guardians may be seated)

LEADER: *At this time I invite our youth and children in preschool, kindergarten, elementary, junior high, or high school, if you are able, to stand.*

Your church family believes that each of you is a gift from God filled with potential and possibility. We pray that as you learn and grow you will develop caring hearts and minds that think clearly. We believe in you and care about your education.

PEOPLE: **As your faith community, we pledge to be with you on your educational journey. We affirm that each of you is a precious gift from God. We will do all that we are able to ensure that your season of learning is positive, filled with hope and the resources you need to learn best.** *(Children and youth may be seated)*

LEADER: *Let us pray — Gracious God, we lift up to you all those involved in education in this community and in all the communities in our nation and world. Guide us, great God, that we will know the best way to show our interest and support for our students, teachers, and all those involved in the education of these youngest members of the Body of Christ.*

PEOPLE: **We pray for wisdom and strength to make a positive difference in the lives of those in school. We pray for courage to explore new ways of supporting the people and institutions that teach our children and youth. We pray for patience to persist in all these things — through a pandemic and through every struggle our students encounter. We pray in the name of the great teacher, Jesus. Amen.**

Our faith challenges us to care for children, especially those who are at risk – those Jesus called “the least of these.” Within the important guidelines of our nation’s Constitution, the church and public schools can work together for the well-being of children. The National Council of Churches’ Committee on Public Education and Literacy brings together representatives of member denominations to explore ways we can work for quality schools and the well-being of all our children.

This liturgy is based on materials from the National Council of Churches (NCC). Learn more about the NCC and their policy statement on public education at nccusa.org.