

A Litany for Schools, Educators, Staff, and Students

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/be noted 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 work in our schools.

**If gathering in-person, please remember the COVID-19 safety guidelines by remaining six-feet apart and wearing masks. The assembly gathered may show their sign of unity by raising a hand in their air to signify a "laying on of hands" while remaining apart. If gathering online, the worship leader may instead choose to read names out loud of education professionals and staff or you may recognize them in another way such as highlighting their video feed if gathering via Zoom or video conference. Please adapt as you see fit for your context.*

ASSEMBLY: **We celebrate your calling and pledge to support you and others in our communities who are involved in the education of children and youth.**

LEADER: *As we recognize those who teach in schools, we recognize as well those who teach at home. Will parents or guardians of our children and youth in school, who are able, please stand/be recognized at this time.*

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

ASSEMBLY: **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.**

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

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.

ASSEMBLY: **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 schools are positive places filled with hope and the resources necessary for learning.

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 education.

ASSEMBLY: 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 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.

**Litany adapted from the National Council of Churches Committee on Public Education. Learn more at nccusa.org.

Prayer Petition to be included in the Prayers of Intercession

*O God, wisest of all teachers, we give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless all schools and districts, but especially the _____ District. May it be a place of safety and learning. As the Coronavirus offers us the opportunity to discover new and safe ways to educate, we ask that you give us wisdom, patience, kindness, love, faith and hope as we wrestle with the hard issues that present themselves in these challenging times. We pause to give thanks for school administrators, school boards, educators, para professionals, support staff and all connected to the district. We entrust these dedicated individuals and communities into your care, knowing that you will provide as you see need. We lift up parents and students as their hearts are anxious. Care for them, shepherding God, calm their fears, ease their burdens and give them good courage. **Lord, in your mercy ...***