



Parents Alliance for Catholic Education

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Media Release

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PACE and the Catholic Schools Foundation Launch Poverty Data Collection Project

Boston – The Parents Alliance for Catholic Education (PACE) and the Catholic Schools Foundation (CSF) today announced a joint project to increase the rate of return of poverty data from families of students enrolled in Archdiocese of Boston inner-city schools.

The purpose of the project is to generate a more accurate count of students in poverty attending our schools. The project is expected to significantly improve school eligibility and allocations for many federal grants, which often are tied to a school's number of students who live poverty. However, substantial barriers exist in collecting financial information from students who attend inner city Catholic schools.

Sister Kathleen Carr, Superintendent, Archdiocese of Boston Catholic School Office, was instrumental in bringing PACE and CSF together to collaborate on this important initiative.

“PACE is so grateful for the generosity of the Catholic Schools Foundation and the leadership of Sister Kathleen Carr in supporting this effort,” said Steve Perla, Executive Director of PACE.

“We know that with better data, Catholic school students will receive the fair share of federal educational resources to which they are entitled,” Mr. Perla said.

“Catholic schools historically have been unable to get their equitable share of federal assistance because of the barriers we face in collecting family income data,” said Sister Kathleen Carr.

“The Foundation is pleased to support this project because we are confident it will give hundreds, if not thousands, more of our neediest students a better education and a brighter future,” said Sean Dunlavy, Executive Director, the Catholic Schools Foundation.

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Through a special grant from the Catholic Schools Foundation, PACE has retained the services of the Center for Educational Partnerships (CEP) of Chicago, IL to lead the project. CEP has expertise in data collection and has been successful in securing significant additional government dollars for private and religious schools throughout the United States.

To carry out the project, CEP will enlist and train dozens of Boston College graduate students to work on-site at Archdiocese of Boston inner-city schools focusing on 17-points of data collection. The project is set to begin this September and will be completed by early November. The impact of this new data on entitlements and grant allocations for Archdiocese of Boston schools will begin during 2004-05 academic year.

PACE is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to serving Catholic schools in Massachusetts in the public policy arena. The Catholic Schools Foundation, Inc. (CSF) supports the educational mission of the Church while helping to provide programs and services that insure optimal educational opportunities for all students regardless of race, religion, national origin, or gender attending Roman Catholic primary and secondary schools located in the Archdiocese of Boston.

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