

St. Mary Catholic Parish v. Roy

THE SUPREME COURT WILL DECIDE...



Can governments bar religious families and schools from public funding programs?

Colorado launched a preschool funding program to give families free access to preschool education at the preschool of their choice. But Catholic families are excluded because of their religious exercise. Now the Supreme Court will decide whether governments can bar religious families and schools from public funding programs.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



Colorado funds “universal” preschool, unless you’re Catholic

In 2022, Colorado announced it would offer Colorado families “universal” preschool funding—worth over \$6,000 per year—to attend the public, private, or religious preschool of their choice.



\$6,000

worth of funding



15 hours

of free preschool a week

But Colorado quickly made it clear that the Catholic Church’s religious exercise—asking all families who enroll to support and uphold Catholic teachings—made Catholic families ineligible for the funding.



**34 Catholic
Preschools &**



Thousands of Students
deemed **ineligible**

WHAT'S AT STAKE?



1

Families who can least afford it are harmed the most

Low-income families would benefit the most from access to universal preschool funding, but Colorado's exclusion of Catholic preschools means that many low-income families who most need the support are denied funding because of their religious beliefs.



of students receive
tuition discounts or scholarships
at St. Mary Catholic Parish



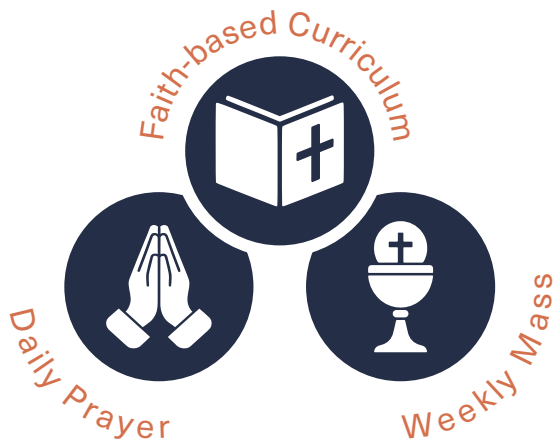
of families
received free or reduced meals
at Wellspring Catholic Academy

2

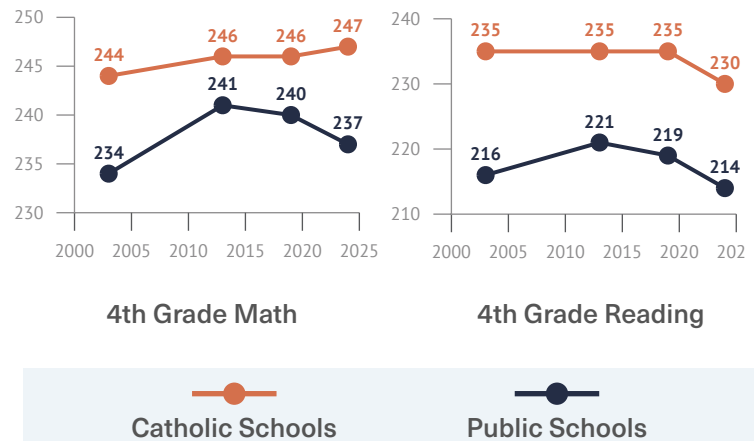
All families are denied access to quality preschools

Catholic schools offer a holistic education that cultivates the whole person and that supports parents who want a Catholic education for their child. By excluding Catholic preschools from the state's funding program, however, more families are left competing for fewer seats in state-funded preschool programs.

Catholic schools offer families a community united in a commitment to Catholic education. St. Mary's school provides:



Students at Catholic schools are one and a half grades ahead of their public school peers.



3

The future of Catholic education is jeopardized

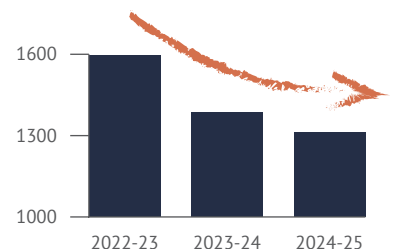
Colorado's religious discrimination puts a thumb on the scale against Catholic education. The exclusion of Catholic preschools is the equivalent of imposing a \$6,000 tax on families who want to educate their children in the Catholic faith.



Since UPK was launched,
2 Catholic Preschools
have close their doors



Enrollment is
down almost
20%



Archdiocese of Denver Preschool Enrollment