

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN
CITIZENS FOR OBJECTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC.
(a Missouri Non-Profit Corporation)

In order to (1) promote the rights of parents to direct the religious education of their children, (2) promote the rights of children to not be indoctrinated by public schools to accept a particular religious belief, (3) secure the rights of citizens and taxpayers that public schools they support will operate in a manner that is religiously neutral, and (4) promote good public education that *informs* rather than *indoctrinates*, the undersigned hereby applies for membership in CITIZENS FOR OBJECTIVE PUBLIC EDUCATION, INC. (COPE), a Missouri non-profit corporation and declares that:

1. I have a genuine interest in promoting the purposes of COPE. I understand that its primary purpose is to promote objectivity in public education that addresses religious questions and issues so that the curriculum strives to produce a religiously neutral effect. I further understand that COPE will encourage the exclusion from public education of curriculum that is not or cannot be reasonably addressed in an objective manner so as to have a religiously neutral effect, given the nature of the subject and the age and maturity of those in the classroom.

2. In this context I understand that religion is an organized set of beliefs about ultimate questions, such as the origin of the universe and the cause, nature and purpose or meaning of life and how it should be led from a moral and ethical standpoint. "Religion" includes traditional theistic religions as well as pantheistic and materialistic religions, such as Atheism and Religious/"Secular" Humanism. Religious subjects include those that seek to explain the origin and nature of the universe and of life and those which tend to profoundly relate the life of man to the world in which he lives. Public school courses that open these subjects for discussion include origins science, health and social sciences and other courses that deal with questions of ethics and morality, human sexuality, marriage, family, human behavior, the sanctity of life, and history that touches on the effects of various religions on the health and freedom of the individual, family and culture.

3. I also understand that the word "objective" generally means not influenced by personal feelings, interpretations, or prejudice; based on facts; unbiased. It means to inform, not to indoctrinate. It involves teaching methods which seek to reasonably and objectively inform students about, and cause them to critically analyze, competing viewpoints about religious issues and questions so that the effect of the teaching is that which strives for religious neutrality.

4. I understand that, as a Member, my membership shall be kept confidential except (a) upon my consent, (b) unless COPE shall otherwise be ordered by a court, after appropriate objection, and (c) in connection with any disclosure required by the Internal Revenue Service or other governmental authority necessary to maintain its tax exempt or legal status. I further understand that I shall be entitled to receive mailings and other information distributed to members in general and that I shall be entitled to participate in meetings of the members. I will also be entitled to participate in other activities of the Corporation upon application and acceptance by the President or Vice President or an action of the Board of Directors. Members shall not be entitled to vote on any matter, except to the extent as may be provided by the Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation. There are no fees or dues associated with membership without a member's written consent.

Name (print): _____ Age if you wish (not required): _____

Street: _____ City _____, State & Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____