



December 2016 Newsletter



2017 Legislative Session Begins Next Month!

Over the last number of years, IACS has seen some amazing successes at the Capitol. In 2013, we saw independent accreditation become law. This was our top priority for ten sessions. We finally saw the removal of the sunset provision this last session, making it available for the foreseeable future. We have proven we can accomplish anything if we are consistent and wise in our efforts.

This year will see a very different legislature kick off its session on January 9. Although the Iowa House remains in Republican control again this year, the Senate now has a large Republican majority and we will probably see Kim Reynolds become Governor at some point before the legislature adjourns.

We want to wish Governor Branstad all the best and congratulate him on his new role as U.S. Ambassador to China! We thank him for his support of Christian education and school choice throughout his career.

Moving forward, we must recognize and take advantage of opportunities that may present themselves. IACS will continue working alongside the Iowa Alliance/Advocates for Choice in Education and the Iowa Catholic Conference along with our other coalition partners to see Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) passed into law as soon as possible. We'll also maintain focus on our longstanding priorities. These are exciting times!

All Hands On Deck! To Succeed, We Need You!

Due to the incredible opportunities we have this year to advance school choice and Christian education in Iowa. We are extremely hopeful as we work with our coalition partners to plan for the upcoming session. We'll do our part but we need you in order to be successful.

Here are a few things you can do:

Host a legislative event at your school - It is easy and extremely helpful to have your legislators in your building. Please contact us and we'll send you a step-by-step plan.

Sign up for our newsletter! - Please [click here](#) to sign up for our email newsletter and action alerts!

Download our advocacy app to your phone and make IACS the organization you are following. Get notifications and contact your legislators right from your phone! It makes advocating for your school as easy and simple as possible! You can [find instructions here!](#)

Like and share our posts on social media! You can find links to our social media pages on any page on our [website](#). Use the hashtag #ESAsforIA

Let us know if you want to get more involved. We have a number of simple, easy things you could do to help us make a push for ESAs this session. Just [email](#) or call us and we'll plug you in!

School Choice Coalition Video

The Iowa Association of Christian Schools partnered with Iowa ACE, the Iowa Catholic Conference, and AFP - Iowa to [produce a video](#) outlining the benefits of school choice, specifically ESAs. We are extremely pleased with how it turned out!

We will be promoting this video between now and the first part of the legislative session. Please look for it on our social media pages and website and share it with as many people as possible. If you sign up on the website highlighted in the video, you'll be added to the AFP and Iowa ACE lists. Please make sure you are on the IACS list first and foremost by [signing up here](#).

Other Updates

There are a number of other issues we worked on or watched this session. Here are just a couple:

Join a School Choice Webinar! - [Iowa ACE](#) will be broadcasting a "School Choice Parent Webinar - Legislative Kickoff" in January to nonpublic schools across the state. The webinar will offer a refresher on the legislative process, discuss the priorities of the Iowa school choice coalition this legislative session, and offer specific ways you can help move the ball forward. **The webinars will be offered twice: on January 10 at noon or Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 pm, and are only accessible through a nonpublic school viewing party.** The program will last approximately 30 minutes and will be followed by local discussion at your viewing location.

Interested? Let your school know you'd like to be included in their viewing party. **Questions? Contact Iowa ACE Executive Director Trish Wilger** at twilger@iowaace.org or 515.323.0687.

Resources For School Administrators - Just this week, we put up a number of helpful resources for member school administrators on our members-only website. Information on advocacy efforts, Title Funding, ESSA implementation, and more are available now. Sign-in and join the conversation!

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