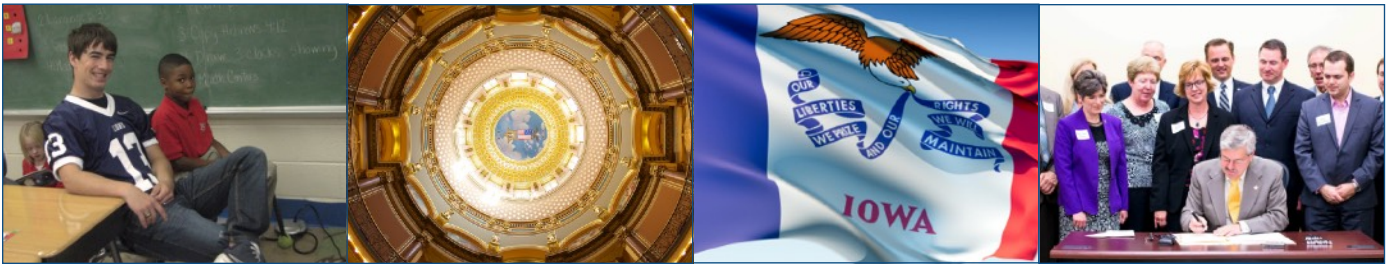




March 2017 Newsletter



Iowa School Choice Update

The Iowa Association of Christian Schools is working with [Iowa ACE](#) as one of a number of coalition partners on ESAs and STO efforts this year. We have been supportive of Iowa ACE's efforts to spearhead the effort to pass meaningful, student-centered ESA legislation this year.

There have been a number of interest groups spreading misinformation about ESAs and the impact school choice has on public schools and the state budget. We will continue to post information on our website and Iowa ACE (along with [Ed Choice](#)) also have good information on their websites as well. In response to some of these concerns and comments by legislators on the difficult budget circumstances they are facing this year, Iowa ACE has put out the following response:

“We at Iowa ACE encourage all school choice proponents to remain optimistic and confident. A bill concerning an ESA or the STO program involves the state budget, and could be introduced at any time during the legislative session. There are many weeks left in this session, and we can still make significant gains for families who want to have a choice in how and where their child is educated, regardless of their address or income.

We thank you for your continued collaboration and for sharing positive news about ESAs and school choice on public platforms. Through these efforts, we will accomplish great things for Iowa families.”

[Stay tuned.](#) There is a lot of session left.

Education Celebration!

Come visit your legislators and support school choice on **Thursday, April 6, 2017 at the State Capitol!** We need EVERY SCHOOL to send a group to this year's event. It is critical to show support for school choice and is also a wonderful learning opportunity for our students, parents, faculty, staff, and supporters.

We ask that everyone attend the School Choice Rally at noon in the first floor rotunda, and you are free to plan the rest of your day around that event.

If expanding educational choice is important TO you, then this event is important FOR you! Students, faculty, parents, administrators, school board members, STO supporters, and local community leaders are encouraged to attend. ALL are welcome!

The main emphasis of the day - talking with your legislators! No one is more important to a legislator than his/her constituents. Please come tell your legislators how important school choice and nonpublic education options are to your community.

When registering a group, please register under the name of the group leader and include the total number in your group in your ticket order.

We look forward to seeing you at the Capitol!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

Sign Up To Lobby With Us!

We need parents, teachers, administrators, and others willing to champion the cause of school choice and ESAs to plan a day at the Capitol. Would you be willing to come to Des Moines and meet with your Representative and Senator face-to-face? Our lobbyist would be there with you every step of the way.

If we are going to advance the cause of school choice and parental rights in education, we have to continue demonstrating that there is significant grassroots support. We have clogged their inboxes with emails. We have polling that shows a vast majority of Iowans support ESAs. One of the next steps is to have a steady stream of parents and school staff come up to the Capitol each day.

Please email us at info@iowachristianschools.org and let us know if you are willing to come up to the Capitol. Monday early afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday about anytime, and Thursday mornings are all great times to come to the Capitol and advocate for our kids.

Other Updates

Spanish Language ESA Documents!

Iowa ACE has created a set of three documents for Spanish speaking Iowans. The documents have general information on how ESAs work, information on getting involved, and polling information on ESAs in Iowa.

You can [find the documents here](#). Please feel free to print and/or share electronically with any Spanish speaking parents or supporters!

Computer Science Education ([HF 507/SF 274](#))

The Governor's Office has submitted a bill that would create a program for computer science education. This program would be voluntary for public and nonpublic schools. It directs the State Board to create computer science standards and convene a task force to recommend ways to integrate computer science into various curriculums.

We are extremely appreciative that the Governor's office chose a path that does not create an unfunded mandate. As an Association, we fully support efforts to encourage

computer literacy alongside other "21st Century Skills." We are declared "undecided" on the bill for the sole reason that the bill requires yet another endorsement for teachers if they want to participate in the grant program. We believe this is unnecessary and limits our ability to innovate.

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