



IOWA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

August 2023

Strengthening, Growing, and Advocating for Christian Schools in Iowa!

New School Year, New Era

Christian schools welcomed current and new students to a new school year and year one of the implementation of the Students First Act in Iowa. As of August 4, the Iowa Department of Education approved over 18,000 ESA applications in 96 out of 99 counties. You can read the full breakdown of data [here](#).

Our school leaders have done an excellent job of preparing for the Students First Act implementation in their buildings. Some schools have opened up more sections to accommodate new students, added grade levels, expanded to another location, and continue to look ahead and plan strategically for the future. We are proud of how they continue to serve their families and students and look forward to hearing the stories of how God is working in schools across the state!

IACS in the Media

The Iowa Association of Christian Schools Foundation Interim Outreach Director and Sioux Center Christian Head of School Dr. Josh Bowar was a guest on Iowa Press this past month to talk about ESAs in Iowa and the effects on private schools in Iowa. He was joined by Jennifer Raes, principal at St. Anthony Catholic School in Des Moines.

[Watch the broadcast here.](#)



Jennifer Raes and Dr. Josh Bowar were guests on Iowa Press to discuss ESAs in Iowa.

Be a Page in the Iowa Legislature

Every year, the Iowa Senate, Iowa House of Representatives, and Legislative Services Agency employ high school juniors and seniors of high academic standing to serve as Pages for the legislative session.



[Read about one Page's story here and learn more about the program!](#)

Helpful details:

- Applicants must be at least 16 years old by January 2, 2024.
- Chosen Page applicants will be assigned to serve in the Iowa Senate, Iowa House, or Iowa Legislative Services Agency.
- Pages will begin work on January 8, 2024, through the end of the legislative session (usually around the end of April.)

Learn more about this exciting opportunity: [2024 Legislative Page Program](#)

Supreme Court Cases and School Choice: Where are we now?

Multiple school choice programs have been challenged in court and in almost every case, well-designed and religiously neutral programs that empower parents are upheld as constitutional.



Often we see that those who are anti-religion in the public square get the constitutional question confused as they mistake religiously neutral for a prohibition on any religion at all. This simply isn't how our Constitution was written nor how our nation has operated since its founding. In state after state we are seeing anti-religious roadblocks being torn down both in courts and in legislatures. [Visit our website to read summaries of recent court cases that should put this argument to rest once and for all!](#)

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