



## September 2016 Newsletter



### IACS Annual Meeting! Be There!

Ten years ago, IACS made getting “independent accreditation” its top priority. After seven years, the legislature passed independent accreditation into law as part of the 2013 education reform bill with a “sunset” provision ending the program in 2020 barring further action.

This year, after ten years of advocacy and on the last day of the legislative session, the legislature passed a budget bill with language that included striking the sunset provision from Code. Independent accreditation will now be there for our students for the foreseeable future.

The six independent accreditation agencies recognized by the Department align with each other, provide a higher bar for our schools, and understand the unique nature of our schools.

Legislators from both parties in both chambers have worked on this for the last 10 years. We appreciate each of them. A special thanks to Senator Schultz, former Rep. Carmine Boal, & Rep. Dolecheck for initially getting the ball rolling on this and a big thank you to Majority Leader Hagenow for working with Reps. Heartsill, Fry, and others to get this done this year. This was a major victory for our students, but we have much work to do moving forward!

Mark your calendars for this year’s IACS Annual Meeting and help us celebrate this achievement and look forward to the future. **It will be Wednesday, October 26 at the Fox Creek Center in West Des Moines.** More details coming soon!

### Annual School Choice Summit!

**Calling All Parents, Teachers, and Administrators!**

Iowa ACE is hosting its Annual School Choice Summit NEXT WEEK! It isn’t too late to RSVP! There will be great speakers, breakout sessions, and a chance to meet with others seeking to create a culture of school choice in Iowa.

We encourage anyone in the Christian school community to make it if at all possible. A link to RSVP is below.

**Details:**

**SCHOOL CHOICE SUMMIT – September 14, 2016 at State Historical Museum, Des Moines, 9am – 1pm**

Keynote Speaker – Derrell Bradford of NYCAN, a dynamic school choice speaker and leading activist in the school choice movement!

Breakout sessions for Administrators, Parents and STO Board/Staff.

**RSVP Here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iowa-school-choice-summit-tickets-25841533723>

## 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 throughout the Fall. 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](#). We are always looking for ways to expand our bipartisan coalition of Iowans looking to advance Christian education and school choice in general.

## Other Updates

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

**Financial Literacy** - IACS, the Community Bankers of Iowa, interested legislators, and the Department of Education worked together to create a Financial Literacy Task Force, now the Financial Literacy Network.

This network has hosted a summit, brought in financial literacy experts to work on the issue of financial literacy education, and get resources out to schools.

The initial goals were to measure what is currently happening in the field and make sure educators were able to access quality resources to help plan financial literacy offerings.

IACS is proud to have helped start this network and you can learn more about its current efforts [on the Department's website](#).

**AdvancEd Iowa Conference** - AdvancEd, one of the six accrediting agencies our schools may use within the Independent Accreditation option, is hosting an annual meeting in West Des Moines October 4-5. You don't have to be accredited by AdvancEd to participate! More details on their [event's website](#).

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