



April 2024

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

2024 Legislative Session

The 2024 Legislative Session ended in the early morning hours of April 20. It was one of the most challenging and unique sessions in IACS history! It is an honor to work on behalf of our member schools to preserve and advance Christian education. [We have a comprehensive post on our website that you can read through that explains in detail the bills that we weighed in on, and the results.](#) As always, if you have a question about what you read, please reach out!



The Iowa State Capitol Building

HF 2612, better known as the “AEA Bill,” was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on Wednesday, March 27 after many versions, amendments, and debate about the content.

It's helpful to first have some background. In 2022, a SPED task force gathered to better study how to implement special education services in nonpublic schools. This task force had representation from all stakeholders, including IACS members. It has taken 2 years, but the recommendations from that task force have now been implemented as part of the AEA bill, which we believe is a big win for us! [Read the entire AEA bill summary on our website.](#)

Other bills IACS worked on this session:

- Social Studies Curriculum and Study
- Immunization Resources and Seizure Mitigation Teacher Training Mandate
- Minor Driving Permits

- School Safety and Security
- Chronic Absenteeism
- Preschool Funding
- Athletic Eligibility & Participation
- Student Information Systems
- “Grooming” Bill
- Right of First Refusal / Deed Restrictions
- Athletic Competition Changes
- School Start Date

The dollar amount for ESAs have increased 2.5% to \$7,826.00. This change is tied to the annual supplemental state aid growth for public schools. Increases for ESAs, if past predicts future, will average from 0% to 3% per year.

There were no changes to the STO tax credit program this year.

See our [detailed 2024 legislative summary](#) and for more information on every bill we declared on this General Assembly (last two sessions), visit our [bill tracker](#) and check out our [legislative scorecard](#).

Thank you for your active support in this year's legislative session!

ESA Reminders

ESA applications will be open until June 30. ESA information can be found on the Iowa Department of Education's website: <https://educate.iowa.gov/pk-12/educational-choice/education-savings-accounts>

Qualifications for the 24-25 school year for ESAs include:

- All incoming K students
- All public school or homeschool students who transfer to a Christian school, regardless of income
- Students who qualified for the ESA this year (no matter the income) – “once in, always in” – a reminder that parents still need to apply on Odyssey every year
- Students in families who are 400% of the poverty level and lower

Battle Creek Iowa School Building - Opportunity for a new Christian School

A public school building has been purchased in Battle Creek, Iowa by a gentleman who would like to see it used by a non-public school. The building has 28 classrooms, 46,000 square feet, and is in good shape. He is not looking to sell, but he just wants the facility to be used. If you or someone you know is aware of any school startups that need a facility in the area, please reach out to us at info@iowachristianschools.org.



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