



May 2024

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

School Spotlight

In addition to advocating for Christian schools in Iowa, it has been our privilege to walk alongside new school startups in Iowa, as well as schools that are pursuing accreditation. We have seen God work in amazing ways over the past year in our schools.

[Fort McHenry Classical Academy](#) is a new school startup in the Davenport area. In their most recent Founders Update Newsletter, Fort McHenry shared some exciting news about their new school startup and a partnership with Hillsdale College in opening a regional training center in Iowa attached to their school!



teachers across the midwest, making Scott County a critical piece of the progression of classical instruction throughout the heartland.

Scott County will be the 3rd regional training center for Hillsdale. There is one in Connecticut and another being built now in California."

[Fort McHenry Classical Academy](#) is a private Christian Hillsdale College K12 Curriculum School in Scott County, IA providing an American Classical education that is content-rich across four disciplines: Math, Science, English Language Arts (including phonics, grammar and writing), and History, with significant attention to music, art, and foreign language. They plan to open their doors in Fall 2026.

For more information about starting a new Christian school in Iowa, visit our new [school services page](#) on our [website](#) or contact Dr. Josh Bowar at Josh@iowachristianschools.org.



From Fort McHenry's newsletter:

"On May 21st, Dr. Larry Arnn, President of Hillsdale College, addressed a room full of supporters in downtown Davenport. He spoke of Fort McHenry's efforts to move forward with the school and Hillsdale's plans for the attached regional training center. This is an announcement we have been waiting a long time to confirm and share with our community. The regional training center will serve schools and

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

Sponsor Spotlight

The [Center for the Advancement of Christian Education \(CACE\)](#) is a vision of the Sid & Carol Verdoorn Foundation, Dordt University, and Christian school thought leaders from around the world. Our reason for being is to walk alongside Christian schools who are committed to teaching from a Biblical perspective. We exist for the sustainability, improvement, innovation, advocacy, and promotion of Christian education at all levels of learning.

Among the rural villages of central Africa, there is a proverb that states, “You can go faster alone but farther together.” CACE believes that this piece of wisdom is critical for Christian education to flourish throughout the world. Just as the African villagers picked up new wisdom and innovative ideas as they traveled through the region, Christian educators can do the same. CACE is dedicated to facilitating this process of sharing best practices in Christian education – collaborating with Christian school thought leaders, innovative practitioners, and Christian education supporters of all shapes and sizes to promote, innovate, advocate, improve, and sustain Christian education at all levels.



Sponsors and Partners

Thank you to the following organizations who financially support IACS. We are grateful for meaningful partnerships as we continue our mission to strengthen, grow, and advocate for Christian schools in Iowa.

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IACS Team

Lydia Quick - Executive Director

lydia@iowachristianschools.org

Eric Goranson - Lobbyist/Policy Consultant

eric@iowachristianschools.org

Dr. Josh Bowar - Outreach Director, IACS Foundation

josh@iowachristianschools.org



Iowa Association of Christian Schools

PO Box 12028

Des Moines, Iowa 50312

info@iowachristianschools.org

www.iowachristianschools.org