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# The WFIS Advocate (02.28.12)

*A Publication of the Washington Federation of Independent Schools*

Our thanks to the **School Employees Credit Union of Washington** for sponsoring this month's issue of *The Advocate*. ([Read more about a special promotion ...](#))

## Legislative Update

The Legislative Session is over March 8, 2012. In these last weeks, Bills that had died are suddenly resurrected as legislators make a final push to see their Bills through. With a shortfall in the budget of 1.1 Billion dollars, many programs have been cut.

Early Education is still a top priority as are Teacher Evaluations for certified public school teachers. Here is a brief overview.

## Early Learning:

Washington received the Race to the Top: Early Learning Grant. The Department of Early Learning (DEL) backed a number of bills this session to change the state's framework for childcare and support the promises made to the federal government in their grant application.

DEL has a long range Birth to 20 Plan. Their first step is to establish public childcare/ preschools. Providers are concerned for many reasons including the sense that the state will close all in-home care and private stand-alone centers. Also, the plan mandates a BA for lead teachers and an AA for assistant teachers there by setting the opinion that without one, providers are unqualified to do what they have been doing for years: care for children.

A Kindergarten Inventory and a voluntary Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) are also moving forward. WFIS fought for the QRIS to be voluntary, not mandatory. There are problems with the QRIS including a star rating system that does not allow a school to change its status in a timely fashion.

Overall, the Washington childcare providers are not happy with the state's interest in taking over early learning and opposition is swelling. WFIS schools are wary of state control particularly if they make Early Education a part of Basic

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## Calendar at a Glance

**April 27, 2012**  
WFIS Board Meeting

**June 19/20 and  
August 21/22, 2012**  
OSPI Private Schools  
Conference, Seattle

**June 26/27, 2012**  
OSPI Private Schools  
Conference, Spokane

**October 26, 2012**  
WFIS/PSESD  
Private Schools  
Workshop

WFIS is the umbrella  
organization for private  
education in Washington  
State.

WFIS is the only  
statewide vehicle for  
regular communication  
and strategic  
development between the  
many different  
constituencies.

### WFIS affiliates:

Association of Christian  
Schools International  
(ACSI)

Catholic Schools

Education.

Note: WFIS is a member of the Early Learning Advisory Committee and a Workgroup that will design and implement a survey to help with local coordination of a prenatal through third grade plan.

## K-12:

The Northwest Accreditation Council (NWAC) has officially merged with AdvancED. WFIS attended and hosted a series of meetings over the past seven months to determine our constituencies' reactions to the merger and devise a plan to move forward. We have confirmation that AdvancED will continue to recognize our third-party agreements for now.

A Charter Schools Bill was introduced this session. If this does not pass, the state will continue to encourage Innovative Schools. These school have a more narrow focus than typical public schools, usually focused on STEM, but do not require a different system of governance.

There is a Bill moving forward that establishes revised evaluative criteria and a four-level rating system for all certificated classroom teachers. WFIS is reminding the legislators that this must only concern Public School teachers.

Note: WFIS is instrumental in the work of the Private School Advisory Committee. This committee allows us to keep our governmental agency informed about private schools and gives us an opportunity to discuss relevant issues.

In mid-March I will be meeting with other heads of organizations like ours in Washington DC at the annual CAPE meeting. In addition, I will be meeting with Maureen Dowling, Director of the Office of Nonpublic Education. **If you have questions or concerns you would like me to address, please [email](#) me as soon as possible.**

Suzie Hanson,  
Executive Director

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The Department of Early Learning is seeking feedback about Licensing. Let them know how difficult licensing is for Early Learning. Help them get it right.

Deadline, March 31st. Don't delay. This is our chance!

Follow this link for information:

<http://www.del.wa.gov/laws/development/center.aspx>

Christian Schools  
International (CSI)

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Hutterian Brethren  
Schools

Islamic Schools

Jewish Schools

Lutheran Schools (NSLA)

Montessori Schools (AMI,  
AMS, PNMA)

Pacific Northwest  
Association of  
Independent Schools  
(PNAIS)

Seventh-day Adventist  
Schools (SDA)

Waldorf Schools  
(AWSNA)

The WFIS Board of  
Directors consists of  
eighteen school heads  
representing the major  
constituencies, chosen  
regionally by their  
respective bodies.

WFIS is networked with  
similar organizations in  
other states through the  
Council for American  
Private Education  
(CAPE).

## CAPE Outlook February 2012

### Supreme Court Issues 9-0 Ruling in Religious School Case

In a groundbreaking 9-0 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court last month agreed that the government cannot intervene in the decisions of religious schools regarding the employment of ministers. Find out exactly what the court said -- and didn't say -- in this historic ruling. As an added treat, discover how the decision relates to Magna Carter and James Madison.

This month's Outlook, available [here](#) for download as a free PDF document, provides everything you need to know about this breakthrough ruling that carries important implications for religious schools.

Also in the February Outlook:

- Why Vouchers Were Cheered at the White House
- The Latest on National School Choice Week
- Two Recent Court Decisions
- Links to Three Free Valuable Publications
- And much more

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### White House Highlights Leaders in Catholic Education as Champions of Change

Last month the White House recognized ten leaders in Catholic education from across the country as [Champions of Change](#) for their service to their communities and our nation. These extraordinary individuals have made a significant impact on students, families, and educators through Catholic schools and universities throughout America. Their innovative ideas and dedication to students and to the wider community, demonstrate the strong commitment to ensuring that every child has an opportunity to reach their full potential.

### Champions of Change in Catholic Education

Bertha Castaneda, High school senior, Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, DC

Rev. Charles Currie, S.J., President, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Washington, DC

Rev. John P. Foley, S.J., Chair Emeritus and Chief Mission Officer, Cristo Rey Network, Chicago, IL

Sr. Jennie Jones, S.F.F., Principal, St. Mary's Academy, New Orleans, LA

Paul Krebbs, President, All Hallows High School, Larchmont, NY

Fr. William Leahy, President, Boston College, Boston, MA

Annette "Mickey" Lentz, Chancellor, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN

Sr. Rosa Maria Ruiz, C.F.M.M., Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Tucson, AZ

Yvonne Schwab, Principal, St. James the Less Catholic School, Columbus, OH

Joseph Womac, Executive Director, Fulcrum Foundation, Seattle, WA

**WFIS congratulates all "Champions," especially Joe Womac and the Seattle Archdiocesan Schools!**

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\*\* The \$25 Online Account Opening Bonus requires that you open and fund your account online with an initial minimum deposit of at least \$5. School Employees Credit Union will issue a 1099 form at year-end.

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