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# The WFIS Advocate (08.30.2012)

*A Publication of the Washington Federation of Independent Schools*

## *Pacesetters ... Leading the Way!*

Thank you to our PACESETTER SCHOOLS!

- **Amazing Grace Christian School**
- **Eton School**
- **Everett Christian School**
- **Holy Names Academy**
- **Saint Madeleine Sophie Catholic School**
- **Spruce Street School**
- **Saint Anne School**

Your school can be a PACESETTER too!  
Be a leader in keeping independent schools *independent!*

I want my school to **be a PACESETTER!**

**THANK YOU** to all of the schools who have renewed  
their  
**2012 WFIS Membership.**

**Join/Renew Membership.** Dues are due NOW!

## School Choice in Washington State

In principle, WFIS supports school choice for children. When it comes to the politics of ***School Choice***, our schools, at times, have differing opinions. As ***School Choice*** programs become more popular and more sophisticated in other states, our schools' opinions will evolve. We will have the benefit of seeing what is working and what is not.

For example, Charter Schools in other cities have competed for enrollment with some of our schools, thus limiting options

[WFIS Board](#)

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[WA State Legislature](#)

[WA State Library Updates](#)

[Alliance for School Choice](#)

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## Calendar at a Glance

September 14/15, 2012

Private School Days

Puyallup Fair

September 21, 2012

WFIS Board Meeting

October 17, 2012

WFIS Soundoff!

PEMCO, Seattle

October 19, 2012

WFIS Soundoff!

Spokane

October 20, 2012

WFIS/ESD 101 Workshop, Spokane

October 26, 2012

WFIS/PSESD

Private Schools Workshop

November 2, 2012

WFIS Soundoff!

Yakima

for families. This is a reality we need to consider. It follows then that some of our schools do not support Charter Schools, while others do.

The following is a **snapshot of School Choice** options:

Option	Benefit	Pass in WA?
<b>Vouchers</b>	<b>Benefit:</b> Low-income families, children failing in school or children with special needs have greater access to private schools. <b>How:</b> Education dollars "follow the child" to pay for tuition.	Washington's Blaine Amendment bars State money from supporting faith-based schools, thus making Vouchers an unlikely choice.
<b>Scholarship Tax Credits</b>	<b>Benefit:</b> Low-income families, children failing in school or children with special needs have greater access to private schools. <b>How:</b> They provide incentives for corporations to donate to scholarships for children.	This type of program is a possibility in WA. Scholarship credits are working in other states. They help even the playing field for low-income students.
<b>Education Savings Accounts</b>	<b>Benefit:</b> Families control their education dollars to be spent as they see fit for their child. <b>How:</b> Personal accounts store a child's state education dollars. Families can spend the money on many things including tuition, textbooks, and tutoring.	Arizona is the only state using this type of program
<b>Public Charter Schools</b>	<b>Benefit:</b> Opportunities for children to attend a different kind of public school. <b>How:</b> They are allowed to innovate and develop specialized education programs. However, they are still accountable to the government.	Charter School Initiative 1240 is on the BALLOT this year. Charter Schools differ from one-another in how they are run and, in turn, how successful or unsuccessful they are for children.

Here are some articles promoting Scholarship tax credit: What do you think?

November 3, 2012  
WFIS/ESD 105  
Workshop, Yakima

December 7, 2012  
WFIS Board Meeting

February 7, 2013  
WFIS Winter Dinner

April 26, 2013  
WFIS Board Meeting

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

Christian Schools International (CSI)

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).

<http://www.redefinedonline.org/2012/05/design-for-school-choice-programs-is-crucial/>

<http://educationnext.org/tax-credit-scholarships-need-a-critical-not-hostile-eye/>

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## **CAPE: Council for American Private Education**

Milwaukee, WI  
July 8-10, 2012

This summer, WFIS, as a State CAPE Representative joined in a two-day dialogue about **School Choice**. Some of the country's leading experts informed the group about trends, legislation, and court cases.



Dr. Howard L. Fuller, co-founder of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO) with Dr. Gary Arnold, Board Member, CAPE

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## **ELECTION 2012**

### **Follow the Elections:**

- The Advocate will be reporting on the results of its **Questionnaire to Candidates** in the October Issue ...
- **VOTESMART** is a user friendly, nonpartisan tool that will keep you up-to-date

- Washington Policy Center's [Ballot Measures](#) page

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## POLICY

### Early Education

Private schools are leaders in early education. As such, WFIS is included in conversations and workgroups formed to guide the State in its commitment to educate young children.

Until recently, the Department of Early Learning (DEL) focused mostly on **health and safety** through licensing. With the federal Race-to-the-Top--Early Learning Grant, DEL has the funding to **refocus** on **quality control** through its ***Early Achievers Program***.

DEL is offering substantial support in the form of coaching and program development. There is also monetary incentive for schools to participate. The higher a school scores, the more support it receives. With our schools running high quality programs, the question is: What are the Risks?

Some Schools are weighing the beneficial outcomes of participation with the school resources it takes to be a part of the program. Others are considering whether State intervention threatens a school's independence.

For information on the program click here: [Early Achievers Program](#)

Feedback: Please click [here](#) to let us know if you're interested in having an orientation on Early Achievers in your area. Please include your zip code!

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## ADVOCACY

1. Tell your story to your Legislators ([Find your legislator.](#))
  - In November, have your office send an email to your local legislators. Leave a message or email. Make yourself present in their minds as they make decisions on education.
  - When you win an award, start a special program, or help an at-risk student graduate, let your legislators know.
2. Talk about ACCREDITATION
  - To your parents
  - On your website
  - In your newsletters

- On FaceBook

Let your community know that you volunteered to participate and strengthen your school.

As a WFIS member school you have the right to use our logo as well!

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### ***Thank you, PEAB reps!***

WFIS hosted summer receptions at Gonzaga University and Seattle Pacific University to honor the 40+ individuals who serve as private school representatives to the state's College and University Professional Education Advisory Boards for Teachers, Administrators and Superintendents.



Shown here is Neill Warfield of Spruce Street School with Suzie Hanson, WFIS Executive Director. Neill has served on the Teacher PEAB at the University of Washington for the past four years.

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### **Fun reads: BLOG Articles**

[Standing Desks](#)

[Pennsylvania Enacts Opportunity Scholarship](#)

[PTA Barred from Charter Schools?](#)

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**SAVE THESE DATES!**



**October 17, 2012**  
**WFIS Soundoff!**  
PEMCO, Seattle

**October 19, 2012**  
**WFIS Soundoff!**  
SDA Headquarters, Spokane

**October 20, 2012**  
**Private Schools Workshop**  
ESD 101, Spokane

**October 26, 2012**  
**Private Schools Workshop**  
(Register now for this one)  
Puget Sound ESD, Renton

**November 2, 2012**  
**WFIS Soundoff!**  
TBD, Yakima

**November 3, 2012**  
**Private Schools Workshop**  
ESD 105, Yakima

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**CityClub's Youth Civic Education Awards**  
[youthawards@seattlecityclub.org](mailto:youthawards@seattlecityclub.org) or call us at (206) 682-7395.

Nominate a program for the Youth Civic Education Awards scholarship to the 2013 Guiding Lights Weekend. The application deadline is September 18, 2012.

**Who is eligible?** School-based and community-based programs for Washington State high school and middle school students that provide youth with the opportunity to give back to their community and/or engage in democratic decision-making.

**What do they win?** Five winners will be selected and will receive a cash prize of \$500. Winners will be notified the week of October 1, 2012 and the awards program will take place November 15, 2012 in conjunction with the National Council for the Social Studies Conference, which is being held in Seattle.

CityClub wants to highlight the diversity of programs and projects in Washington State and we encourage your program to apply.  
[Apply now!](#)

*The WFIS Advocate* may include links to other websites. These links are offered for your convenience to provide further information. They do not signify that we endorse the website(s).

*Welcome Back to School!*

**Membership Questions:**  
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