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The Advocate *(April 8, 2013)*

A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS

Participating in the Process

Our school community members have been participating in the legislative process by attending hearings, calling legislators and meeting with legislative staff.



Erik Konsmo, Principal
Renton Christian School with
Duane and Audrey Montague
testifying in Olympia.

WFIS is the go-to organization for information on independent school issues. Legislators often request information and perspective on Bills.

Legislators like to hear from practitioners and informed constituents to help them understand how educational policies affect independent schools.

Together WFIS and its school members make sure that the consequences of State regulations do not infringe upon a school's right to run a mission-based program.

We celebrate the teachers, administrators, and students who participated in the legislative process this year. WFIS is looking forward to making participation even easier next year for all who are interested!

Here is the **Bill Update**:

School Programs

Moving forward: [SB 5496](#): Authorizes approval for private schools to run online programs for grades outside those offered by their brick and mortar school.

Moving Forward: [HB 1283](#): Changes compulsory school attendance age from eight to six.

Died: [SB 5588](#): Required an analysis of how school districts use school days. This Bill challenged the use of 1/2 days and late starts.

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[State Board of Education](#)

[OSPI, Private Schools](#)

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Calendar at a Glance

April 26, 2013
WFIS Board Meeting

May 1, 2013
WFIS Awards Dinner

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)

Died: [HB 1215](#): Concerned the exemption for property owned by nonprofit religious organizations.

[Safety](#)

Moving Forward: [SB 5620](#): Changes school safety-related drills so that schools must complete no fewer than four drills for lockdowns, previously one, and four drills for fire evacuation, previously six.

Moving Forward: [SB 5197](#): Requires public schools to implement a panic alarm system that uses technology to expedite law enforcement's arrival and effective response in the event of a threat at a school.

Moving Forward: [HB 1541](#): Expands the types of medications that public or private school employees may administer to include nasal spray.

Moving Forward: [HB 1968](#): Aligns building code for after school programs with school building codes so that there are not two sets of regulations.

Moving Forward: [SB 5563](#): Regarding training for school employees in the prevention of sexual abuse.

[Early Learning](#)

Moving Forward: [HB 1723](#): Creates a legislative task force to examine options for early learning.

Died: [HB 1671](#): Childcare Reform

Moving Forward: [HB 1547](#): Creates an exemption from licensing for school-age recreational programs.

The 2013 Legislative Session ends April 28th

[How will the Same-Sex Marriage Law Affect School Policy?](#)

As the law about marriage changes in Washington State and nationally, there may need to be tough policy decisions made at the school board and/or Church level.

This is a time for reflection for all independent schools at the leadership and the school community levels. These conversations are hot right now and could bring up strong feelings in school

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).

communities.

Policies need to reflect the religious and cultural truths of the school. It is important to make sure that employment contracts, hiring and enrollment practices, and discrimination clauses align with the schools' core values within the constructs of the law.

WFIS is collecting resources to share with schools who would like support as they revisit their current policies.

Please contact [WFIS](#) for more information.

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Admissions Process Recalibrated by Suzie Hanson

According to an article written by Grover J. "Russ" Whitehurst, director of the Brookings Institution's Brown Center on Education Policy, New Orleans and New York City are using "an algorithm created by a Nobel Prize winner to match students to the schools their parents prefer. "

Would using a system that matches students to schools and schools to students alleviate the drama of the admissions process and help schools enroll the students who would be most successful at their schools?

When I worked as an Admission Director, I dreamed about this possibility. I could imagine that instead of waiting the two weeks while a family whose child got in to all five schools he/she applied decided where to go, and put all other folks on hold, the algorithm would place the student immediately and in turn, all of the other families would know their place as well.

It seems like a dream: No more drawn-out admissions season; No more deposits sent to hold a spot at one school while hoping for a different school; No more competition for the same kids, while other great kids are overlooked.

No answer is perfect. We will hear the complications of using the algorithm in good time. I am, however, excited about the possibility of the selection process being less stressful for all involved, even if it is just a dream!

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Students Attend and Graduate from 4-Year Colleges at High Rates

Students in private high schools are more likely than those in public schools

to receive a diploma, attend a four-year college, and ultimately earn a bachelor's degree, according to data compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) at the request of CAPE.

The findings hold true regardless of the race or ethnicity of students and should be of interest to policymakers determined to improve rates of high school graduation, college attendance, and college completion.

Find out more in the April issue of [Outlook](#).

Also in the April Outlook:

- John Chubb explains how to get the best teachers in the world.
- The Brookings Institution's Russ Whitehurst unpacks pre-K policy for private school leaders.
- The Indy 5-0: How the unanimous Indiana Supreme Court decision offers a roadmap for other states.
- Alabama becomes the latest school choice state with not one, but two tax credit programs.
- The Education Department's Office of Non-Public Education encounters March Madness.

Download the April Outlook [Here](#).

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Join the Safety Advisory Committee.

Help make decisions about keeping schools safe: What is the answer: Arming staff? Adding lockdown drills for Kindergarteners?

School Safety Advisory Committee Needs
a Private School Representative

WFIS is able to appoint a representative to this committee. If we can not find anyone, we run the risk of losing our position on the committee.

We need our voice in the conversation about keeping students
and staff safe at school.

Let us know who on your staff would be a good candidate!

Contact [WFIS](#) today.

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WFIS Excellence in Education Awards Dinner

May 1, 2013 - 5:30 PM

Keynote Speaker
Fr. Stephen Rowan, Superintendent
Archdiocese of Seattle Schools

Invitations are in the mail!
Let us know if you don't receive yours.

jmorrison@wfis.org

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GOLDEN APPLE AWARDS

Nominations for both public and private school educators due
May 6, 2013.

Go to KCTS9.org/GoldenApple for more information

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The **WFIS Board Meeting** and the
Private School Advisory Committee meetings
are both held in April.

Please forward any issues or concerns you think Independent School
Leaders should be discussing to
[Suzie Hanson, WFIS Executive Director.](#)

Thank you.

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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).



The WFIS Advocate
is a publication of the Washington Federation of Independent Schools

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