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## The Advocate *(September 2013)*

A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR MEMBER SCHOOLS

**Advocacy:** A political process by an individual or group, which aims to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions.

Washington Federation of Independent Schools advocates on behalf of all approved private schools.

Locally, Statewide, and Nationally to the following and more:

- Legislators
- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Department of Early Learning
- City Councils
- Governor's Office
- State Board of Education

When WFIS Alerts you to a  
**CALL TO ACTION,**  
Know who to call!

Step ONE: Find your District and Legislators  
TODAY

Step TWO: **Put their numbers into speed dial**  
FOR TOMORROW

[USDOE, Private Schools](#)

[US Congress](#)

[WA Policy Center \(Ed\)](#)

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[Alliance for School Choice](#)

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Calendar at a Glance

**September 19, 2013**  
WFIS Board Meeting

**October 25, 2013**  
WFIS/PSESD Private  
Schools Workshop  
Day

**October 31, 2013**  
Constituency  
Leaders 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

## Updates for Private Schools

### **Change in Minimum Instructional Requirement:**

RWC 28A.150.220 Item 2a

Private Schools are not affected by the new changes in minimal hours. 1000 is still required. Most of our schools have more than this minimum.

### **High School Credits:**

Credits may be assessed by seat time or proficiency. No waiver needed. Schools should establish policy for judging proficiency.

### **Certificated Years of Experience:**

WAC 392-121-264

Teachers earn credit for years spent teaching in private schools.

### **Online Schools:**

Private schools' online programs should abide by the set of requirements established for their brick and mortar programs. The intent of the law is to create guidelines for approved private schools to run online programs if they so choose.

### **Handbooks:**

School Handbooks should address any new school policy changes made to address the same sex marriage law.

### **Scholarship Tax Credit Bill:**

The STC Bill is still alive in Olympia.

***National School Choice Week*** is from 1/26 - 2/1, 2014. If your school wants to participate register [here](#) and receive a complimentary event kit.

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## **PRIVATE SCHOOLS WORKSHOP DAY**

**October 25, 2013**

**8:00-3:00pm**

**4.5 Credits free to WFIS members**

[Register Now](#)

constituencies, chosen regionally by their respective bodies.

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

Enjoy a day with your colleagues from diversely affiliated schools while learning the latest and the greatest about a wide-range of current topics.

Administrators, staff and teachers encouraged to attend. See [schedule](#) for more information!

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## OSPI: Upcoming Deadline:

Enrollment and Staff Reporting  
(P105B/ P105HB)

Due: October 1 thru December 2  
(memo emailed September 30)

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The [Great Washington ShakeOut 2013](#)  
is coming **October 17 at 10:17 a.m.**

Schools need to register to officially be counted and participate in this year's event (registration from last year does not carry over).

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## PNAIS Makes A Couple of Changes

The ***Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools*** has officially changed its name. It is now known as the ***Northwest Association of Independent Schools***.

Even bigger news: Meade Thayer, the Executive Director of NWAIS, is retiring this year. He has been the strong leader of this organization for over 15 years and a great friend to WFIS. The NWAIS Board of Governors has announced it has appointed Siri Akal Khalsa as the new Executive Director.

WFIS looks forward to officially welcoming Dr. Khalsa to Seattle and to his new position with NWAIS.

WFIS will continue its long history of working with and on behalf of NWAIS member schools!

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## **Early Learning News**

*Thrive By Five*, the state's nonprofit public-private partnership for early learning, has merged with the *Foundation for Early Learning*, a nonprofit that works to support kindergarten-readiness for young children.

Both organizations are influential and well-funded. This merger will unify their voice when speaking on behalf of early education in Washington State.

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## **Universal Preschool**

### **How do private schools' early learning programs fit into the plan for universal preschool?**

Swift changes in the early learning landscape have yet to reveal how private schools that run early learning programs fit into the plan for universal preschool.

Some topics that have yet to be fully addressed include subsidies, curriculum, hiring practices, and quality control.

Our churches and private schools, both religious and secular, have been running early learning programs for a very long time. They understand its importance. They provide safe, inspiring and nurturing communities for our families and small children.

### **Our political leaders need our help.**

It is important to remind those who represent us in the legislature, the agencies with whom we work, and parents, that diversity in early learning programs is vital to the well-being of our communities, families and youngest students.

State sponsored programs are a good option, but not if they are at the expense of private schools.

Let your legislators, the [Department of Early Learning](#), and

### Governor Inslee

know that we are counting on them to actively support private schools' early learning programs!

- We want to continue to teach all children including those whose families rely on subsidies.
- We want to maintain curricular control.
- We want to sustain flexibility in hiring.
- We want to keep our independence.
- We want to stay mission-based!

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## **New WFIS Board Members**

- [NW Association for Independent Schools](#)
- Matt Neely: Epiphany School
- [Montessori Schools](#)
- Charis Sharp: Cedar River Montessori
- [Catholic Schools](#)
- Mary Helen Bever: St. Catherine's School
- [Lutheran Schools](#)
- Lauri Nichols: Amazing Grace Christian School

### FULL BOARD LIST

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National Center for  
Educational Services Releases...

### **New Private School Statistics**

*Select Findings*

#### **Schools**

- In the fall of 2011, there were 30,861 private elementary and secondary schools in the U.S., a decrease of 2,505 from 33,366 schools in the fall of 2009 (see table 1).

#### **Students**

- An estimated total of 4,494,845 students were enrolled in the nation's private schools in the fall of 2011, a decrease of 205,274 from the 4,700,119

students in the fall of 2009 (see table 1).  
**Teachers**

- The nation's private school students were taught by 420,880 full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers in the fall of 2011, a decrease of 16,534 from the estimated 437,414 FTE teachers employed in private schools in the fall of 2009 (see table 1).

See link to full study:

***PRIVATE SCHOOL UNIVERSE STUDY***

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