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The Advocate *(January 28, 2014)*

A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

National School Choice Week 2014!

Today is the second day of [National School Choice Week!](#)

Nearly 3,000 students, parents and teachers crammed into Minute Maid Park in Houston for the kickoff event. The crowd heard inspiring stories about how ALL forms of school choice are changing lives for students across Houston.

Senator Ted Cruz (a Republican) and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (a Democrat) shared the same stage to call for even more access to these effective education options.

Here in Washington, schools are having events to educate their parents and supporters about the ways in which school choice might help our children:

Spring Valley Montessori, Federal Way, is hosting its Open House and Science and Cultural Fair on January 31st and capitalizing on the gathering to celebrate National Choice Week with their community.

St. Mary's Episcopal School, Lakewood, will feature an ART FAIR during the week in the Gathering Hall. In addition to that week-long event, students have made a poster celebrating Schools of Choice week and everyone will don their scarves and carry their long poster out to the street on Friday, January 31, to march along the school's property advertising Schools of Choice.

If your school is participating, please send pictures and/or stories to [Jan Morrison](#). We will add them to our next newsletter and on our [FACEBOOK page!](#)

[State Board of Education](#)

[OSPI, Private Schools](#)

[USDOE, Private Schools](#)

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Calendar at a Glance

January 13 - March 13
2014 Regular
Legislative Session

March 13, 2014
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

Legislative Update

Suzie Hanson

The Legislature has kicked into high gear introducing over 25 K-12 education bills and another 14 for early learning.

Here are the highlights!

On the K-12 Public School front:

- **Drop-out prevention and recovery:** [HB 1424](#) and [HB 2158](#) provide support for drop out prevention and for students who have dropped out.
- **Teacher and Principal Evaluations:** Two bills seek to clarify the evaluation program: [SB 5246](#) would make sure that teachers and principals be ranked by measurements of student growth and that seniority be used only as a tiebreaker in human resource decisions. [SB 6055](#) requires that student test data be used to determine growth-without the seniority or ranking pieces.
- **Career and College Ready:** There is a lot of focus on preparation for career and college--see [HB 2181](#). [HB 2540](#) seeks to create career and technical course equivalencies in math and science, providing credits in math and science for rigorous CTE courses. [SB 6061](#) would require the adoption of "academic acceleration" in high schools.

Bills that affect K-12 Private Schools:

- **Protection of Student Data:** [HB 2133](#) a study be done on how student data is being used and by whom.
- **Graduation requirements and Core 24:** [HB 6092](#) is the framework for Core 24. The State Board of Education is working with WFIS to provide flexibility within Core 24. This flexibility would allow for religious study and other mission-based coursework.

On the Early Learning front:

- **Early Achievers:** [HB 2377](#) (companion [SB 6127](#)) lays out the plan for DEL's role in early learning. Some background on this



Christian Schools
International (CSI)

Hutterian Brethren
Schools

Islamic Schools

Jewish Schools

Lutheran Schools
(NSLA)

Montessori Schools
(AMI, AMS, PNMA)

Northwest Association of
Independent Schools
(NWAIS)

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).

bill: There is a rub between the high quality programs that already exist and the tool being used by DEL to judge quality. Mission-based schools are finding the Early Achievers Program narrow in its description of quality. Directors of schools are spending many hours and much money working with DEL to improve their system, however, in the meantime, high quality schools are receiving very low scores. Also, this bill dictates that if a school takes subsidies, it will be required to participate in Early Achievers and give student data to the government.

- **Compliance with inspections of Childcare facilities:**

[HB 2191](#) (Companion [SB 6234](#)) is concerned with aligning compliance to local safety regulations.

Two important Compliance reminders:

- Private Schools need to provide 1000 hours of student instruction.
- There must be one Washington Certified Teacher working in each private school.

Contact [Suzie](#) with questions!

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