



The Washington Flyer
September 10, 2010

Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shatter steel, but they cannot dent the steel of American resolve. America was targeted for attack because we're the brightest beacon for freedom and opportunity in the world. And no one will keep that light from shining.

This is a day when all Americans from every walk of life unite in our resolve for justice and peace. America has stood down enemies before, and we will do so this time.

George W. Bush, September 11, 2001

National Legislative Conference to Kick Off!

The American Association of Christian Schools is looking forward with great anticipation to our annual AACCS National Legislative Conference to be held next week, September 13th-15th. For this conference, AACCS state leaders, administrators, and teachers will travel from across the country to our nation's capitol to participate in an event-filled three day conference! Centered on the theme "But God" from Psalm 73:26 which states, "but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever," the conference is designed to provide opportunity for the attendees not only to hear encouragement and challenge from God's Word but also to be involved by meeting with those in leadership and by standing up for the cause of Christian education.

The schedule includes a briefing hosted by the Heritage Foundation designed specifically for the AACCS conference and a Congressional briefing held in the U.S. Capitol where attendees will hear from members of Congress who are fighting for conservative Christian values. Attendees will also receive an update from the AACCS Legislative office and then have an opportunity to meet with their Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill to discuss important policies that affect their schools. During the services, attendees will hear messages from special speaker Jerry Thacker and music presented by students from Temple Baptist School in Herndon, Virginia.

We ask for your prayers for the week that God will do a mighty work in and through the attendees as we seek to preserve and protect religious freedom for Christian education in our nation.

Is a "Common" Curriculum Next?

Nearly 40 states have now adopted the [common core standards](#) not only in hopes of raising the academic standard in their states but also as a means of competing in the Race to the Top funding program established by the U.S. Department of Education. While the focus has been continually on the establishment of a common standard, little emphasis or discussion has been placed on how each state will meet those standards, leaving cause for concern about broader federal control of standards, assessments, and curriculum.

In fact, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has already [awarded](#) nearly \$330 million in a competitive grant to two state coalitions that have designed assessments that will align with the common core standards. The

secretary stated, “As I travel around the country, the number-one complaint I hear from teachers is that state bubble tests pressure teachers to teach to a test that doesn’t measure what really matters. Both of these winning applicants are planning to develop assessments that will move us far beyond this and measure real student knowledge and skills.” This leaves many concerned with the direction this administration is taking the nation’s education system. With the establishment of a common standard and the creation of a common curriculum and assessments to meet that standard, states and parents will lose local control as well as options and choices for how best to educate their child.

And while the common standards currently include only math and English, experts are working vigorously to write science and social studies standards. Secretary Duncan has stated, “A [well-educated student](#), in other words, is exposed to a well-rounded curriculum. It is the making of connections, conveyed by a rich core curriculum, which ultimately empowers students to develop convictions and reach their full academic and social potential.” He further stated, “There is no doubt that math, reading, writing, and science are vital core components of a good education in today’s global economy. But so is the study of history, foreign languages, civics, and the arts. And it is precisely because a broad and deep grounding in the arts and humanities is so vital that we must be perpetually vigilant that public schools, from pre-K through twelfth grade, do not narrow the curriculum.” The secretary also commented on the role the federal government in establishing a well-rounded curriculum:

Now, what can the federal government do to support high-quality arts education and a well-rounded curriculum? Let me answer that question by telling you first what we cannot do. We will not endorse or sanction any specific curricula--and the Department is in fact appropriately prohibited by law from endorsing or sanctioning curricula.

The department will, however, continue to fund research studies on the effectiveness of curricula as it has in the past. And it will continue to require districts to ensure that schools receiving federal funds through Title I or in school turnarounds are using evidence-based instructional programs aligned with academic standards.

What is not being discussed, however, is how these standards will not only affect state and local policies but also will affect students. For instance, a student who attends a private school that does not adhere to the common core standard and/or curriculum could be discriminated against when he wishes to transfer to a public school or when he graduates and enrolls in college. Chester Finn and Michael Petrilli address this concern in an [article](#) they wrote in National Review Online: “Anxiety will surely rise when school kids across the land begin (three or four years hence) to take tests linked to these standards, and even more when those test results start to determine promotion from fifth to sixth grade or graduation from high school. (The development of those tests will soon start, aided by \$350 million of federal stimulus funds.)”

Although these concerns are facing our nation, little discussion has taken place in the public sphere. The adoption of common core standards is perhaps one of the [biggest transformations](#) in education at this time. Yet many states are simply adopting these standards with minimal to no evidence whether these standards will in reality help their students achieve greater success and with no clear idea whether their state can afford to make the drastic changes that the administration is urging. As states adopt common core standards, parental control along with local and state control is rapidly being stripped away.

“Read the Constitution Day” is September 18th!

Thousands of Americans will participate in the first-ever “Read the Constitution Day!” The day is being promoted by several conservative action groups to encourage as many Americans as possible to read the U.S. Constitution. Set for Saturday, September 18, 2010, promoters are encouraging people to plan a “Read the Constitution” party or simply to set aside time to read the Constitution with family and friends. According to a website promoting the event, “Across the United States, ordinary citizens will be hosting or attending local

gatherings at public places and backyard barbecues where they will read aloud the entire text of the United States Constitution. It is a profoundly moving exercise that will take less than one hour.”

To get more information on hosting or attending a “Read the Constitution” event, please click [here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Threats to Values Issues During a Lame Duck Session](#)

[The Case for Marriage](#)

[CA Governor Refuses to Defend Prop 8](#)

[President Obama Weighs in on Pastor's Plan to Burn the Koran](#)



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