



**The Washington Flyer
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*"The Bible contains the most profound Philosophy, the most perfect Morality,
and the most refined Policy, that ever was conceived upon Earth."
John Adams*

Register Today for the AACCS National Legislative Conference

Registration is now open for the **National Legislative Conference, in Washington, D.C., September 14–16**. This conference provides opportunities for pastors and school leaders to learn more about the issues that are relevant to Christian schools and religious liberty. The conference includes a congressional briefing by members of Congress, a legislative briefing by AACCS Washington staff, and also time for you to meet with your members of Congress and connect with other educators and leaders in K-12 and higher education.

Register by August 14 to receive the special conference rate of \$219 (plus tax) on your hotel room and the discounted registration fee. Our hotel is convenient to both the National Airport and the Metro, and registration includes the banquet on Tuesday and breakfast on Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information, please reach out to our Washington staff or visit our website [here](#).

Maryland and Oregon Democrat Governors Oppose National School Choice Program

As more than half the states prepare to implement the national school choice program this year, the Democratic governors of Oregon and Maryland have indicated their states will not participate. Created through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, also known as the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, the [Educational Freedom Tax Credit \(EFTC\)](#) provides a dollar-for-dollar federal tax credit up to \$1,700 for donations to scholarship-granting organizations (SGOs) that award educational scholarships to students in participating states. Governors of each state must choose to opt into the provision for children in their state to receive scholarships.

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore recently referenced the provision in a [speech](#) at the American Federation of Teachers conference, where he criticized the Trump administration's school choice agenda. Referring to the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, he [stated](#) that "buried inside that bill is a tax scheme that takes public funding and steers it towards private schools. So, there is a real and justified anxiety in this country, and there's a real and a justified anger in this country." While this is not an official refusal to participate in the EFTC, it does reflect the challenge in securing support from Democratic governors. Earlier this summer, Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek [announced](#) that her state would not opt into the provision, making Oregon families ineligible for its educational scholarships. She had signaled in March that she was reconsidering her initial opposition, but in June she announced that Oregon would decline participation based on the Treasury Department's [preview of the EFTC's regulations](#). Oregon joins Arizona, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Wisconsin, which also have officially refused to opt into the provision.

Although families in these states can still receive a federal tax credit by donating to an SGO, they must contribute to an SGO that will provide scholarships to students in states whose governors have opted into the EFTC. Maryland state Sen. Justin Ready has recognized the advantage that participation would bring to

Maryland education and families. “This is literally free tax credit money,” he [stated](#). “It would be foolish for our state not to opt in and give contributions for educational services and educational help.” So far, Jared Polis in Colorado and Kathy Hochul in New York are the only Democratic governors to break with their party and opt into the provision. To date, [30 states](#) have officially opted into the EFTC, while five have officially declined.

ED Screens Out 53,000 FAFSA Applications for Ghost Students

The Education Department’s enhanced screening has weeded out 53,000 fraudulent FAFSA forms (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) since April. Last spring, the Department announced its [implementation](#) of real-time fraud detection measures to screen out potential scammers. For instance, students marked high risk must complete an online identity verification process as soon as they are flagged as a fraud risk. If applicants fail this test, they must contact their college to complete an additional verification process. In sum, the Department has stopped \$212 million from going to scammers since April and has prevented almost \$2 billion in federal student aid fraud since President Donald Trump took office. Department officials touted these savings at the first-ever Higher Education Fraud Summit. “Every dollar lost to fraud is a dollar taken away from a student trying to build a better future,” [said](#) Education Under Secretary Nicholas Kent. “The Trump Administration is committed to ensuring that does not happen on our watch.” The Department has also been prosecuting those who have already received student aid fraudulently. The Justice Department obtained a [prison sentence](#) for a student aid fraud ringleader in North Carolina who had received \$5 million. Congress has also taken action to prevent student aid from going to fraudsters. In June, the House of Representatives passed the [No Aid for Ghost Students Act](#), a bipartisan bill that would codify many of the Department’s fraud prevention measures. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has yet to consider the companion bill.

Free Training for Bomb Threat Assessment for K-12 Leaders and Staff

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s School Safety Task Force and Office for Bombing Prevention will present a free virtual training session titled “Bomb Threat Assessment for K-12 Leaders and Staff” on Wednesday, August 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. ET and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. (The two sessions will be identical.) According to its website, the “training will equip school officials and security professionals with a structured, risk-based approach for evaluating bomb threats and selecting response actions based on the available information.” More details and registration information can be found [here](#).

In Case You Missed It:

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

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Register Now for the AACS National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.—September 14–16, 2026](#)

[Education Department Shifts Civil Rights to Justice Department: What It Means for Schools](#)

[Map Shows Where 52 Million Children May Be Eligible for New Scholarships](#)

[Trump Defunds the Left’s Graphic Sex Ed in Favor of Lessons on Marriage, Family](#)