



The Washington Flyer
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"I do not believe that the Constitution was the offspring of inspiration, but I am as satisfied that it is as much the work of a Divine Providence as any of the miracles recorded in the Old and New Testament."
Benjamin Rush

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](#).

Amicus Briefs Filed in School Choice / Religious Liberty Case Before Supreme Court

Members of Congress and several organizations have filed amicus briefs in a case that the Supreme Court will hear this October on educational freedom and religious liberty. St. Mary Catholic Parish has sued after Colorado prohibited the parish school from participating in the state's universal preschool program. Colorado's Universal Preschool (UPK) program allows families in the state to receive at least 15 hours of instruction at private preschools, including faith-based schools, each week. However, the program has a "nondiscrimination" policy that requires religious schools to abandon their biblical sexual ethic to participate. The Catholic preschool applied to participate in the program but was rejected because of its religious beliefs on marriage, sexuality, and gender. The case made its way to the Supreme Court and has caught the attention of Congress. A [bicameral group](#) of 43 members of Congress, led by Rep. Tim Walberg (MI) and Sen. James Lankford (OK), filed an [amicus brief](#) in support of the preschool. They related Colorado's nondiscrimination requirement in the UPK program to [similar efforts](#) by states to regulate the Education Freedom Tax Credit beyond federal intent. Other [groups](#) like EdChoice Legal Advocates and the Wagner Faith Freedom Center have also filed amicus briefs in support of the preschool. "Deuteronomy 6 teaches that parents have the primary discipleship responsibility for their children," [said](#) David Closson, director for the Center for Biblical Worldview at Family Research. "Colorado's so-called universal preschool program ceases to be universal when religious families are effectively excluded."

Pennsylvania Legislature Overrides Governor's Decision to Eliminate State School Choice

Republicans in the Pennsylvania Legislature have voted to continue funding the state's school choice programs, despite the governor's opposition. Pennsylvania has two school choice programs, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit. Gov. Josh Shapiro proposed a budget that [eliminated funding](#) for both programs. Instead, Shapiro proposed a new school choice program that would have allowed the

government to tax private donations to scholarships. If passed, Shapiro's budget would have eliminated scholarship funding for 30,000 students. Republicans [called out](#) Shapiro's proposal and noted that he had promised to support school choice when he was running for governor. Republican legislators amended Shapiro's budget and [restored](#) funding to the programs. "We fought to protect learning opportunities by maintaining full funding for the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program," [said](#) the Pennsylvania Senate Republicans. Others wish the legislature had gone farther by expanding the program. "With public school spending approaching \$24,000 per student, sending more taxpayer dollars into a system with declining enrollment and no accountability is neither good education policy nor sound fiscal policy," [said](#) Andrew Lewis, president and CEO of the Commonwealth Foundation. Instead, he recommended Shapiro opt into the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit. Shapiro has [claimed](#) he is waiting on federal regulations but has yet to announce whether he will opt in and allow more families in the state to benefit.

President Trump Writes a Letter Welcoming Students Back to School

The AACCS Washington, D.C., office received a [letter](#) to pass along to all our schools and students. From President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump, the letter welcomes students back to school, offering encouragement and support for the upcoming academic year. We offer a portion of the letter below. The letter in its entirety can be [viewed online here](#).

"The Golden Age of America relies upon your tremendous leadership, commitment and character. I encourage you to do your best in school each day, ask questions, and never stop learning. Keep dreaming big and working hard, and always remember there is no limit to what you can achieve for yourself and for the United States of America.

Please know, as President, I am fighting every day to strengthen your schools, make your community safer, and create new opportunities for your future so you can build your own unique American Dream.

As you reach new milestones this year, Mrs. Trump and I hope you will share them with us. Write to the White House, and tell us about the projects you are proud of, the lessons you have learned, the success you have in sports, the goals you have set, and the ways you are making a difference in your school and community. We look forward to hearing from classrooms all across America.

I wish you a wonderful school year—work hard, and have fun! May God bless you, and may He continue to bless the United States of America."

In Case You Missed It:

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

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

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

[New Education Policy Group Launches Campaign in Support of Federal School Choice Program](#)

[Map Shows Where Students Will Be Eligible for Scholarships as More States Join the EFTC](#)

[Recent Gallup Poll Shows Uptick in Pro-Life American Values Since Summer of *Dobbs*](#)