



The Washington Flyer
September 11, 2026

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings, but they cannot touch the foundation of America. These acts shattered 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. Today, our nation saw evil, the very worst of human nature. And we responded with the best of America – with the daring of our rescue workers, with the caring for strangers and neighbors who came to give blood and help in any way they could."

President George W. Bush, September 11, 2001

The AACS Remembers September 11

Twenty-five years ago, AACS ministry leaders were in Washington, D.C., attending the AACS National Legislative Conference. As they were entering the White House complex for a special White House briefing, the group was quickly evacuated as reports started to circulate of the terrible attacks taking place in New York City and in Pennsylvania. At the time, there was concern that the plane that ultimately hit the Pentagon might have been headed towards the White House. Traffic in Washington, D.C., was at a standstill, leaving many of the AACS folks waiting outside the White House complex with several White House staff, and small prayer groups began to form. Many of the staffers recall the comfort and peace that these prayer times brought during that time of fear and uncertainty. As our nation pauses today to remember the tragic events of September 11, the AACS wishes to express deep gratitude for the first responders and law enforcement officers who selflessly continue to protect and serve others. As they did that fateful day, these dedicated public servants provide courage, protection, and direction in times of crisis, often at great personal risk and in the face of evil. We are profoundly grateful for their service and sacrifice, and we lift in prayer the families of those whose lives were tragically lost on that day.

Secretary of Education Releases Dear Colleague Letter Regarding Sexual Harassment in Schools

Education Secretary Linda McMahon has released a [Dear Colleague Letter](#) that reminds schools of their federal responsibility to protect children from sexual harassment. In the letter, McMahon condemned schools that shield teachers accused of sexual misconduct from consequences and urged schools to reevaluate their policies in light of two federal laws. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which applies to schools that receive federal financial assistance, prohibits schools from helping a school employee get a new job if that employee has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student. In light of this law, the Department plans to review state guidance on adult sexual misconduct. McMahon further reminded schools that receive federal financial assistance of their Title IX [obligations](#) to respond to claims of sexual harassment. For instance, schools must conduct their own investigations of sexual harassment, even if law enforcement is investigating or declines to prosecute. McMahon cited potential failures of schools to protect students, and specifically referenced the [current investigation](#) into an agreement the Los Angeles Unified School District has with a teachers' union that potentially reassigns, not removes, teachers credibly accused of sexual misconduct. "Make no mistake, the Department will fully enforce federal law and employ every resource at its disposal to protect children from sexual predators," said McMahon. "Those schools that allow sexual misconduct to occur risk the termination of applicable federal assistance provided by the federal government."

IRS Proposed Rule Would Strip Colleges of Tax-Exempt Status for Racial Discrimination

The Department of Revenue Services [has announced](#) a proposed rule that would remove tax-exempt status from colleges that discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, or national origin. The [proposed rule](#) cites court cases since the 1964 Civil Rights Act that established racial nondiscrimination as a “fundamental public policy” of the United States, which colleges must comply with to be recognized as tax-exempt. The proposed rule then examines the judicial history of affirmative action on college campuses, culminating in the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, which struck down the use of race as a factor in admissions. The proposed rule states that “all forms of racial discrimination in education, regardless of the intent behind or the legality of such discrimination . . . are against a fundamental public policy of the United States.” Colleges would not qualify for tax-exempt status if they have racially discriminatory policies in admissions, academic programs, scholarships and financial aid, or athletics programs. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent [clarified](#) that the rule would also apply to DEI policies, stating, “Schools rebranding race-based preferences as equitable, inclusive, or diversity-enhancing does not change their discriminatory nature.”

The proposed rule explicitly protects the right of Christian colleges to have “a religious mission, curriculum or program of observance, or from selecting students on the basis of religious affiliation or membership.” While the proposal offers safeguards for religious liberty, the precedent it sets could be used by future administrations to pressure Christian colleges into complying with progressive policy goals that could be deemed “fundamental” or national “public policy” to maintain their tax-exempt status. While the [loss](#) of tax-exempt status would drastically affect many colleges, it would also likely affect donations, as those donations would no longer be eligible for a charitable tax deduction. If finalized, the proposed rule would go into effect on May 31, 2027. There is a 60-day public comment period, which ends on November 3, and the AACCS will submit public comments on the proposed rule.

Next Week – AACCS to Host the National Legislative Conference

The AACCS will host the National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., next week, September 14-16. This important conference is designed to provide updates to AACCS ministry leaders on issues that are relevant to Christian education and also provide an opportunity for the attendees to meet with their representatives and senators. Because our Washington staff will be very involved in this conference, we will not be sending out “The Washington Flyer” next week. We will resume the following week. Please be praying with us for a fruitful conference that honors the Lord, encourages the attendees, and brings opportunities for positive communication with our government leaders.

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](#)

[Women and Families Win with School Choice](#)

[“We Intentionally Structured It This Way”: School Choice Freeing Up Millions for Oklahoma Public Schools](#)

[Peace Amid Great Suffering: At Ground Zero – Scripture Met Grief and Gives Us Hope We Still Need Today](#)