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*“The future of this nation depends on the Christian training of our youth.”*  
**George Washington**

**Application Process Open for AACCS Youth Legislative Training Conference**

Each summer, the AACCS hosts the [AACCS Youth Legislative Training Conference](#) (YLTC) for high school students interested in history, politics, and leadership. This week’s [podcast episode on AACCS Today](#) features an interview with YLTC alumnus Peter Holland, who now serves on Capitol Hill. As Peter testifies, the YLTC is an excellent opportunity for high school students to learn about the possibilities for Christians who want to make a difference for their community and country. The 2024 YLTC will take place July 8 to 12, in Washington, D.C., and will include a mock senate in which students role-play senators, workshops and seminars by conservative leaders, and tours of historical landmarks in our nation’s capital. Interested students from AACCS member schools should apply through their state association office. More information about the YLTC and the application process can be [found here](#).

**School Choice Update: Louisiana, Wyoming, Missouri, Georgia, and Tennessee**

School choice opportunities are likely to be available to more families across the country as several state legislatures are considering bills that will create new choice programs to provide parents and students with educational options in their states. In [Louisiana](#), H.B. 98 was just introduced to establish the Sunshine Scholarship Program, a universal educational savings account (ESA) program that would allow any families wishing to participate the opportunity to use funding for a variety of educational options such as private school tuition and fees, online school, home education, and tutoring. Those participating would be required to take a state test or a nationally recognized test. School choice supporters are optimistic that the bill will become law as it has strong support from Republicans who control both chambers of the legislature and the governor’s office. In [Wyoming](#), both houses of the state legislature have approved a bill that will also provide universal school choice through an ESA program. If the governor does not sign or veto within 15 days of the passage of the bill, it will automatically become law. In [Georgia](#), both chambers have approved S.B. 233, a bill that will create an ESA program open to students in low-performing public schools and giving priority to students whose family income is less than 400% of the poverty level. The same bill passed the Senate last year, but then failed to pass the House. However, because of the two-year legislative session in Georgia, the bill was reconsidered this year and gained enough support in the House to pass. The Senate approved the bill on Wednesday with a vote of 33-21, and Gov. Brian Kemp has voiced strong support for the bill. In [Missouri](#), the Senate is considering an education omnibus which includes an expansion of the state’s Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program, a tax credit scholarship program that functions like an ESA program. The program is currently open to a limited number of counties and cities, and the language in the bill would expand the program by raising the cap from \$50 million to \$75 million and also allow access to families from across the state. In [Tennessee](#), the House and the Senate are considering two different bills, both of which would advance Gov. Bill Lee’s proposed school choice program. Supporters of school choice are hopeful that as the bills advance, the differences will be worked out to reach the goal of creating a program that will eventually be available to all Tennessee families.

## **Colorado to Reverse Ban on Religious Instruction for Universal Preschool Program**

Colorado recently [deleted language](#) that would have blocked schools participating in the state's universal preschool program from teaching religious lessons and activities. In 2023, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood released a fact sheet that prohibited religious instruction during state-funded class time. However, because the department failed to publish an official rule before the program started in August, schools had leeway to incorporate religious instruction into the classroom. Later in 2023, the department released proposed rules for the upcoming school year that included a specific ban on religious instruction. In response, Advance Colorado, a conservative nonprofit, threatened to sue the state. Now, the department has removed the prohibition on religious instruction altogether. Although the new rule has yet to be approved, it represents a shift in the way Colorado treats faith-based schools that participate in the universal preschool program. Currently, the state is involved in [two lawsuits](#) over its "nondiscrimination" requirement that prevents faith-based schools from operating according to their religious beliefs. When asked about why the department eliminated the prohibition on religious instruction, spokesman Ian McKenzie [said](#) that "we're just letting the trial finish before any comments on any of its [the proposed rule's] content."

## **Poll Shows Overwhelming Opposition to Transgender "Treatment" for Minors**

A [poll](#) conducted by the Rasmussen Survey found that 64% of Americans believe it should be illegal to provide a minor with "gender transition" procedures such as puberty blockers or surgeries. The poll, which was conducted in March, reflects the deep concerns of many Americans about these procedures. Many people around the world are also recognizing the devastating effects these procedures can have. In England, the National Health Service recently [announced](#) it would stop prescribing puberty blockers to minors. And in France, several senators [released](#) a report about the harms of sex "reassignment" procedures performed on minors. Back in America, the poll asked respondents about whether males should compete in female sports. Only 10% agreed, and 73% of voters said men should be prohibited from competing in female sports. In addition, only 10% of voters said they have introduced themselves using their preferred pronouns. Based on the polling data, it appears that many are rejecting the transgender agenda. "Transitioning children makes a lot of sense in an ideological world," [said](#) Katy Faust, founder and president of Them Before Us, a Seattle-based nonprofit children's rights organization. "But citizens and parents with a high degree of contact in the real world largely reject those interventions."

## **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](#)

[Promise to America's Children](#)

[NEW! AACCS Today Podcast: YLTC Success Stories - Peter Holland](#)

[Al Mohler: This Is Where the Transgender Movement Is Going](#)