ACSIPA

A Network of ACSI Schools in PA engaging state and national issues that affect Christian Schooling

- Stay in touch!
- Have an impact!
- Christian Schooling is too important to not!
www.acsipa.org
Are you aware?
What will you do?
ACSIPA Goals (part 1)

Informational Network - helping schools

- 1. Help keep PA administrators connected to the resources that are available to their schools, and provide direct peer support to help them utilize those services.
- 2. Enable schools to receive information from the Commonwealth in terms of regulations, legislation, and statewide initiatives and provide direct opportunity for schools to respond to those issues.
- 3. Provide opportunities for administrators to network on a deeper level about state and regional issues.
ACSIPA Goals (part 2)

Impacting Harrisburg, DOE, and DC
Regarding Educational Issues

1. Building relationships with your legislators
2. Building a network that you can communicate with your families to help them to understand and participate in these issues
3. Educating ourselves and our students to be responsible citizens in participating in a democratic government
Barriers to Christian School Involvement with legislators

- Why are we talking about this?
- Typical Worldview Issues
- Biblical constructs to think about
- Why Christian Schools have been resistant to this process
What is the perspective of the legislators?

- For the most part, different than you think.
- What works? What doesn’t?
- How do legislators feel about your involvement? They want to hear from you!
- Gap where ACSIPA can inform the perspective
How can we do this?

*Implied... with all we have to do?*

- Develop a Worldview and mind set...
- Find a couple of people who are interested
- Build connections
- Commit a small amount of time to the process and leverage that with others
- Get help developing tools...info, email, etc.
- This is a perfect storm!
Building Connections

*looking for connectors*

- Administrators must have a role of establishing the credibility of the process

- Support persons can be staff or parents who:
  - Disseminate information to professional staff
  - Disseminate information to parents
  - Be an informational funnel
  - Develop the infrastructure (email lists, letters, etc.)
PACAPE

*ACSI *Catholic Conference *Christian Schools International *American Montessori Society *Jewish Schools
National Networks:
(National Director George Tryfiaties)
- Religious Freedom Legislation
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten/Early Ed issues
- School Choice Legislation and Advocacy
- Engagement of Title I, II, IV and other efforts
- DC Vouchers Program
- Other Issues
PA Legislative Issues

- EITC expansion
- Participate in PACAPE processes
- Watching or aware of sexual orientation legislation, teacher unionization of private schools, and other initiatives
Strategic Alliance & Networking:

- Working with Catholic Conference Lobbyist
- Working with other CAPE networks at State and National level
- Developing relationships with other Christian school organizations, and private school organizations
- PACAPE represents over 85% of private school students
Future PA Goals

- Every Legislator knows an ACSI school
- Every Legislator can be contacted by someone in an ACSI school when there is something that affects us
- Legislators, Committees, etc. will call ACSI contacts when there is an issue of interest to get our perspective
- The ACSIPA network will be active and reliable to communicate real information to
schools who can contact their parents when appropriate

Developing a Relationship with your Legislator

- There is also a webinar on file at the www.pacape.org website with things to consider in the process
Beginning Administrator Considerations

- Find out who and jump in into an invitation to the school or to their office.
- Special events. Remember their interests.
- Real Barriers, matched with real goals!
Contact Information

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