

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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