



Opportunity Scholarships—Common Misconceptions by Paul Stam, NC House Republican Leader



"The Opportunity Scholarship Program will diminish funding for public schools and is ultimately intended to dismantle public education."

Scholarships for eligible students will not drain public schools' funding and resources. In reality, providing scholarships for students who leave public school to attend non-public schools saves taxpayer money and frees up resources for students who remain in public school. When a student uses a scholarship to leave a public school, the school district does lose some of the revenue associated with

that student. However, the district no longer bears any of the cost for educating that student.^[i] Property taxes and some other sources make up a large portion of a school district's revenue. These amounts do not change based on enrollment.

For the 2013-2014 school year the estimated state and local expenditure per-pupil is \$7,254. The scholarship is capped at \$4,200. When a student moves from public to private school, the operational cost savings to the state are \$4,828 (\$6,745 when savings for the average LEA is included). Some eligible students will not be leaving a public school, so those costs offset the savings. Overall, public schools will have slightly less money with slightly fewer students. The difference in per pupil funding from taxpayers for public schools will be negligible.

When combining all of the school choice programs nationally, voucher programs have saved \$422 million for local school districts and \$22 million for states.^[ii]

"Tax dollars for private education won't fix struggling public schools, or create better opportunities for struggling learners."

Over 20 studies have demonstrated that school choice policies can improve public schools by introducing more competition, compelling all schools to work harder to attract and retain students.^[iii] For example, schools that faced the most competition due to Milwaukee's Parental Choice Program exhibited what amounted to an annual gain of 6.3 National Percentile Rank points over a four-year period. Comparatively, schools in Milwaukee that faced no competition saw an annual gain of only 3.5 points.^[iv]

Another study by the Brookings Institute and Harvard University found that African American students who participated in a school choice program in New York were 24 percent more likely to enroll in college.^[v]

"Private and parochial schools lack public accountability for the use of taxpayer funds."

Non-public schools are held accountable by the parents who send their children there. If parents are not satisfied with the quality of education their child is receiving they can remove their child from that school. Private schools that do not generally satisfy parents will close. In contrast, Judge Howard Manning, Jr. found that 43 public high schools were committing "academic genocide." All were accredited by AdvanceED (formerly SACS). None were closed.

Non-public schools are also held accountable through attendance, health, and safety regulations, as well as standardized testing requirements. Non-public schools are required to administer a nationally normed test in grades three, six, nine, and eleven. HB 944 requires annual testing for scholarship students. Test scores are open to inspection by the state. The test in the eleventh grade measures high school competency—each non-public school establishes a minimum score their students must earn to graduate from high school. The scholarship proposal requires non-public schools to report to the state the scores of scholarship students on these tests. Participating non-public schools are also given additional requirements depending on the number of scholarship students enrolled at a school. The state Department of Public Instruction can prevent a private school from participating if it does not meet the necessary standards.

"A tuition voucher is a ticket to nowhere for most public school children because private schools can pick and choose their enrollment."

We do not understand this objection. We do not believe that most students will choose non-public schools. It is a mistake to believe that all or most non-public schools turn away difficult students or are highly selective in their admissions processes.

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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Governor Signs Pro-Family Bills Into Law

Governor Pat McCrory (R-NC) has signed into law three key pro-family bills that promote the sanctity of human life in North Carolina and expand parental choice in education. On Monday, July 29, the Governor **signed 18** bills, including a landmark pro-life bill, a measure aimed at reducing child sex trafficking in the state, and legislation that will provide scholarships to help children with disabilities attend nonpublic schools.

First, in a landmark victory for the pro-life movement in North Carolina, the Governor signed **Senate Bill 353 -Health and Safety Law Changes**, one of the most life-saving measures to pass the General Assembly in decades. This sweeping omnibus pro-life bill:

- Expands North Carolina's health care conscience protection law;
- Restricts taxpayer funding of abortions;
- Bans sex-selection abortions in the state;
- Requires a physician who is to perform an abortion to be physically present during a surgical abortion procedure or when the first drug or chemical is administered during a chemical abortion; and
- Directs the N.C. Department of Health & Human Services to increase health and safety regulations for abortion clinics. In a statement, Governor McCrory responded to claims by pro-abortion groups that the law is aimed at restricting abortion access. "I am pleased that this new legislation is focused on the health and safety of women in North Carolina," he said. "These higher standards will result in safer conditions for North Carolina women. This law does not further limit access and those who contend it does are more interested in politics than the health and safety of our citizens."

The Governor also signed into law **Senate Bill 683-Safe Harbor/ Victims of Human Trafficking**, an important bill aimed at protecting the victims of sex trafficking. The law makes a number of important changes to North Carolina's prostitution laws, including increasing the penalties for traffickers and purchasers, and ensuring that minor victims of prostitution are treated as victims of sex trafficking, and not as criminals, and are therefore immune from prosecution, and eligible to receive state services and support. North Carolina now joins at least 11 other states that have enacted either partial or full "safe harbor" laws.

"It is important to protect victims and likely victims of human trafficking," said Governor McCrory. "These children should have every opportunity to live in a safe environment and without the prospect of living in fear."

Additionally, the Governor signed into law **House Bill 269-Children w/ Disabilities Scholarship Grants**, a measure that replaces an existing education tax credit program for children with disabilities that was enacted by the General Assembly in 2011. H269 establishes "special education scholarship grants for children with disabilities... to attend any nonpublic school and to receive special education and related services in a nonpublic school setting."

"This legislation ensures that our commitment to excellence and innovation in K-12 education is extended to all North Carolina students," the Governor said. "Students with physical or learning disabilities deserve access to the best education possible and this legislation goes a long way toward providing that."

This is the second school choice measure the Governor has signed into law. In addition to H269, which focuses on children with disabilities, the Governor also signed **Senate Bill 402-Appropriations Act of 2013** on July 26. The law includes a school choice provision that provides scholarship grants to help lower income families send their children to private schools in North Carolina.

"We applaud Governor Pat McCrory for signing these bills that are designed to promote the interest and wellbeing of citizens and families across our state," said John L. Rustin, president of the North Carolina Family Policy Council. "We especially thank Governor McCrory for signing Senate Bill 353 into law," Rustin continued. "Despite the claims of pro-abortion groups and their allies, this bill will save the lives of unborn children in North Carolina, protect the health and safety of pregnant women, and guard the conscience rights of our state's citizens and taxpayers."

President Obama Delivers Major Speech on Education Policy

During a July 24th speech at Knox College in Illinois, President Obama stressed many of the same educational themes mentioned in his State of the Union address last February. He contended that American students are facing tough competition from their foreign counterparts and that higher education is a necessity in the current global economy. He urged Congress to appropriate funds to establish the Preschool for All program, the ConnectED initiative, and the Community College to Career proposal. The Administration has continued a concerted effort to push for billions of dollars to fund a universal preschool program, in addition to the third phase of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge which is currently an open competition. Recently, an Office of Early Learning was established at the Education Department to further these efforts. President Obama explained that such programs "work for our kids" and "provide a support system for working parents." While the latter claim may have some validity, the efficacy of such programs has been shown to be negligible according to comprehensive studies released by the Department of Health and Human Services in 2012. The ConnectED Initiative seeks to give 99% of America's student's access to high speed Internet over the next five years. Finally, he reiterated the Administration's commitment to college access and affordability. To read a summary of the education portions of this speech, [click here](#).

2013 AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference

For 19 years, God's faithfulness and steadfast goodness have been on display during the AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference. He continues to bless the efforts of AACS to encourage and motivate Christian youth to make a difference in politics for conservative Christian values and issues and to advance the Word of God in the laws and public policy of our country.



This year's conference began with an exciting introduction to the mock Senate, led by Gail Nicholas, an American government teacher at Bob Jones Academy. During the mock Senate, the students role-played Senators, which involved going to committee meetings, drafting legislation on the issue of immigration, and then debating and voting on their bills on the "Senate floor." This year, 28 pieces of legislation were drafted, but only 8 bills made it to the Senate floor for debate.

Throughout the week, students also met with their Representatives and Senators, listened to inspiring conservative experts, and participated in tours of historical sites in Washington. On Wednesday, the students were able to experience "A Day on the Hill" with an exclusive AACS Congressional briefing in the Rayburn House Office Building. Nine members of the House of Representatives participated in this year's briefing: Louie Gohmert (TX), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA), Doug Lamborn (CO), Tim Huelskamp (KS), Diane Black (TN), Jim Jordan (OH), Trent Franks (AZ), Vicky Hartzler (MO), and David Schweikert (AZ). Many of the Congressmen and women spoke about how their faith in God has led them to where they are and about seeking His guidance to make the best decisions, even when facing adversity. Students prayed for God's wisdom and guidance for each of the Representatives after they spoke.

On Wednesday evening, the students enjoyed an after-hours tour of the Capitol. The tour was hosted by Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC), who also led the students in prayer in the Members' Chapel. Melissa Evans, executive assistant to Rep. Jim Jordan (OH) and former AACS teacher, served as a tour guide and pointed out architectural details that illustrate our rich religious heritage. Students also visited the old Senate and Supreme Court chambers. This year, for the first time during a YLTC tour, students raised their voices in song in the Capitol Rotunda, giving a stirring rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Special guests who spoke throughout the week included AACS President Dr. Keith Wiebe, Focus on the Family Vice President of External Relations Tim Goeglein, Bob Jones Academy Speech and Debate teacher Chuck Nicholas, and Judge David Gustafson, who serves as one of nineteen Federal tax judges in the country. They spoke about how to be an effective Christian while involved in politics and government and how faith impacts their decisions. Students also heard from speakers from the Leadership Institute (LI) where the conference was held. LI speakers included General Services Management Advisor Ian Ivey, LI Deputy Field Director Mike Armstrong, Roncalli Communications President Dr. John Shosky, and LI Vice President of Development Steve Sutton. A Wednesday evening devotional was shared by Captain Wayne Bley, Chairman of FBFI Commission of Chaplains and former advisor to the Pentagon on the religious elements of the Global War on Terror.

On Friday evening, the students attended a special banquet where they were privileged to hear from Austin Nimocks, Chief Legal Counsel for the Alliance Defending Freedom. He was presented an award by AACS for his commitment to defend marriage and preserve religious liberty. After receiving his award, he spoke to the students, encouraging them not to back away from the truth and to stand firmly against those who seek to redefine traditional morality.

Throughout the week students participated in a variety of exciting activities. This year, they had the opportunity to tour the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which gave them a better understanding of how genocide and oppressive governments have driven immigrants to seek refuge in America. Also, Dr. Tim Schmig, executive director of the Michigan Association of Christian Schools, conducted an informative tour of the various monuments while pointing out our country's religious heritage around D.C. On Friday evening, after a week of being separated by political parties in their mock Senate, the students came together for a game of government trivia, a photo scavenger hunt, an ice cream social, and a time of reflection and praise to God for the events of the week.

On Saturday morning, the students made one last stop before heading home: Arlington National Cemetery. During the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the students paid their respects to those who have died for our freedoms. They also visited the Robert E. Lee Home and the gravesite of President John F. Kennedy.

We praise the Lord for the great group of students He sent us this year, and we pray that they will continue making a difference for the cause of righteousness. We are excited to continue preparing more young people for His service as we look forward to the 20th anniversary of the AACS Youth Leadership Training Conference next year. [Click here](#) to watch a video of the 2013 AACS Youth Legislative Training Conference.

This article was written by AACS intern, 2009 YLTC alumna, and recent Bob Jones University graduate, Lee B. Miller.

After meeting with many representatives from non-public schools in the state, we can say that most of these schools are ready to open their doors and expand their student population. Non-public schools benefit from high enrollment. It is a myth that scholarships will “cream” the best and brightest students with the most involved parents and leave all other students behind. Studies have found that participating private schools in school choice programs are not highly selective. [vi] The 2010-11 annual report on the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program found that Florida’s program participants “tend to come from less advantaged families,” from “lower-performing public schools,” and from the “lowest-performing students in their prior school.”[vii]

“A \$4,200 scholarship is not enough for low-income families to afford tuition at a private school.”

It is a common misconception that most private K-12 schools have exorbitant tuition costs. The median private school tuition in North Carolina is \$6,235 a year.[viii] A \$4,200 scholarship brings this tuition cost down to \$2,035. Hundreds of private schools in North Carolina have tuition that is at or less than \$4200 per year. In other states with similar programs, many schools have been willing to work with parents to provide alternative means of paying the remaining tuition, or to write off the additional tuition that is over the scholarship amount.

“Public schools offer choices that are open to all students.”

Opportunity scholarships will not take away from any of the choices that the public schools already offer. The intention of scholarships is not to limit or stifle the innovative school options and choices that the public schools are already providing. The proposal adds another layer of choice for families that may not have the resources to afford non-public schools. Overall, school choice programs encourage both public and private participating schools to offer quality education opportunities to students. This is a win-win.

“School choice is unconstitutional because it is a violation of the First Amendment’s separation of church and state.”

The Supreme Court has ruled on the constitutionality of school choice in 2002[ix] and again in 2011.[x] Both times it held that vouchers do not violate the separation of church and state. The purpose of the program is to give low-income children more opportunities; the purpose of school choice is not to encourage parents to choose schools with a religious affiliation. Parents receive the funds to make a personal, private choice about their child’s education – they are free to choose between both religious and non-religious options.

“Some studies show only slight gains (or no gains at all) between program participants and their income-eligible peers in the public school system.”

Out of ten studies conducted on the effect of school choice on the academic achievement of the participants, nine found positive results. Only one found no visible effect, and no studies found a negative impact on student achievement. [xi] Vouchers or other school choice programs are not a silver bullet. There are many factors that affect the performance of a school system, and school choice programs are only one of these factors.

It is very significant that there have been several studies proving that school choice improves both the academic growth of students as well as public school performance. Modest benefits are still real benefits to students and their families. Additionally, modest benefits are likely related to the modest efforts in program size so far. If school choice options were available to more students, it is easy to conclude that the benefits would also improve.

“The Opportunity Scholarship Program is a way for wealthy people to get scholarships.”

North Carolina’s proposed scholarships are limited to students from households with an income level not in excess of 133% of the amount required for students to qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program (246% of the federal poverty guidelines). For a family of 4, this is equivalent to a household income of \$57,945. For the first year, scholarships are limited to students who qualify for free and reduced price lunch. Starting in the second year, at least 50% of the new scholarships each year must go to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced price lunch program.

For students who reside in households with an income level in excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program (but who still meet the household income limitation), the grants cannot exceed 90% of the required tuition and fees of the nonpublic school the student will attend with an absolute cap of \$4,200.

“The idea is too new and untested.”

The modern discussions about school choice were begun by Milton Friedman in 1955. Friedman’s ideas were preceded by two town tuitioning programs begun in Vermont and Maine in 1869 and 1873 respectively. In 1990, the nation’s first modern voucher program was begun in Milwaukee, WI. According to the 2013 *ABCs of School Choice* publication, there are currently 18 voucher programs in 12 states and Washington, D.C., 14 tax credit scholarship programs in 11 states and 6 individual tax credit/deduction programs in 6 states.[xii] The ideas of school choice and education scholarships are hardly new or untested.

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2013 NCCSA Summer Staff Development Seminar



On July 22-25, the NCCSA held its 10th-annual Summer Staff Development Seminar. The guest speaker this year was Dr. Phil Johnson from the Global Next Research Group. Due to interest across the state, Dr. Johnson presented the seminar in two locations: on July 22-23, nearly 30 faculty/staff members met at Woodland Baptist Christian School in Winston-Salem, and on July 24-25, nearly 100 faculty/staff members met at Faith Christian Academy in Goldsboro. Approximately 25 administrators attended the administrator seminar on July 24-25 with Dr. Glen Schultz from Sherwood Christian Academy. We are hoping for an even greater number of participants in next year's staff development program.

The following are a few of the comments from the evaluation surveys the state office received:

Dr. Phil Johnson is a tremendous communicator. His passion and mission are contagious. It is good to reunite with friends from other ministries.

Dr. Schultz was excellent at leading discussions. He was extremely knowledgeable and philosophy is what can get away from schools, so we need to hear this every few years.

This is the second time I have heard Dr. Johnson speak and enjoyed it as much as the first time. Hope to have him back next year for a class.

It challenged me in my spiritual walk and really made me re-evaluate why I do things and believe what I believe. He was very practical and kept my attention!

I enjoyed how Dr. Phil really encouraged us to think out of our box and to strive not to just be good but be exceptional.

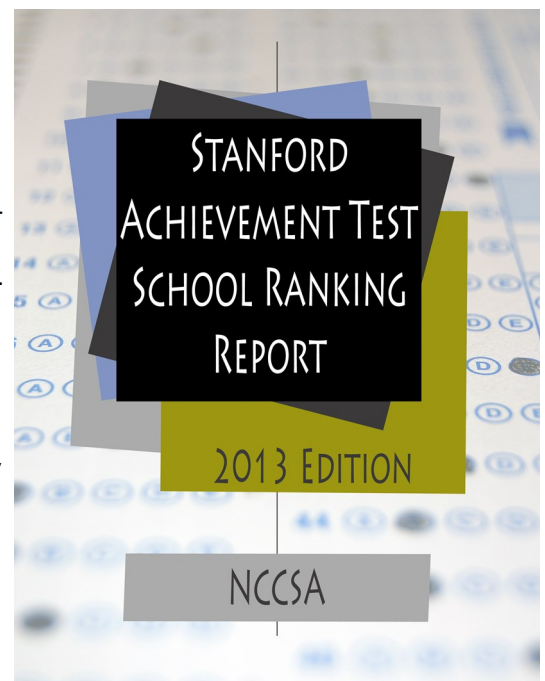
The broad picture of what is happening in our world right now and the sense of urgency for training the students in our classes to be able to own and defend their faith was what I liked most about this seminar. Dr. Johnson was very well read and a very good communicator. I only wish that this seminar with Dr. Johnson was mandatory for every teacher in my school.

Stanford Achievement Test School Ranking Report

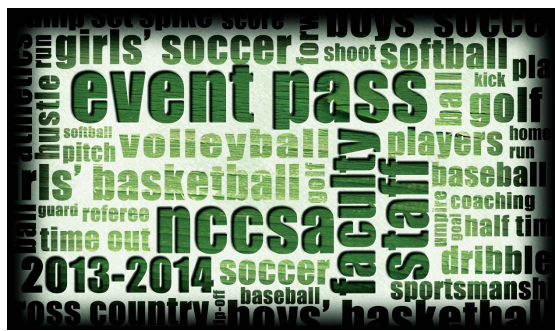
Many NCCSA administrators and schools are working hard to improve the academic program of their schools. Achievement testing is sometimes used as an indicator to assist in making necessary changes to staff and curriculum.

The NCCSA Stanford Ranking Report is offered to schools that participate in the Stanford Achievement Program. Unlike the report from Pearson that compares each school's scores to the AACS and national norms, this report compares the results of NCCSA participating schools. This report assigns a unique ID number to each NCCSA member school that participates in the achievement testing program. Member schools will not know the ID numbers of other schools. The report compiles the Percentile and Rank-Stanine scores for: Total Reading, Total Math, Total Language, Science, Social Science, Basic Battery, and Complete Battery. Every grade is ranked according to Complete Battery scores. If an administrator or school wishes to determine a rank for a particular subject in a particular grade, that information can be determined from this report.

The Ranking Report order information has already been sent out and is still available online [here](#). If you wish to participate, please send in your order by Friday, August 9.



ATHLETIC NEWS



The 2013 Athletic Participation and Enrollment Information will be sent to each NCCSA Athletic school on August 15. **The deadline for submitting this information and fees to the NCCSA State Office is September 2.** Please be prompt with your school's participation information and required fees. All of this year's information will be collected in an online format.

It is highly possible that the athletic meeting/seeding meeting formats will be changing. Information will be available in the coming days.

2013-2014 NCCSA Faculty/Staff Passes will be mailed to each NCCSA Athletic Member school on August 15. We look forward to a great year in athletics and seeing everyone at various state tournaments and other athletic events.

The **2012 Edition of the NCCSA Athletic Handbook** is available for purchase in the publications section of the NCCSA website.

"The General Assembly has the constitutional responsibility to provide for a free and uniform system of public schools. It should not be providing extra money for an education that students should be getting for free."

The General Assembly shares North Carolinians' commitment to our students and our public schools. Most of our students will choose to receive their K-12 education in the public schools. The House and Senate will consider several significant proposals to enhance the public school system and to encourage the work that is being accomplished by our dedicated public teachers. We also believe in providing parents the opportunity to choose the educational environment that is best suited for their child. That choice will not always be a traditional public school.

"The Opportunity Scholarship Program will be administered by private companies that will make a fortune off of North Carolina tax payers."

The Opportunity Scholarship Program will be implemented and administered by the State Education Assistance Authority – a state agency. No scholarship granting organizations or other private groups will be involved in or benefiting from the administration of the program.

[i] "Does School Choice Drain Public Schools' Funding and Resources?" *The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice*, <http://www.edchoice.org/School-Choice/School-Choice-FAQs/Does-school-choice-drain-public-schools-funding-and-resources.aspx>.

[ii] <http://www.edchoice.org/School-Choice/School-Choice-FAQs/Does-school-choice-drain-public-schools-funding-and-resources.aspx>

[iii] "How Does School Choice Affect Public Schools?" *The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice*, <http://www.edchoice.org/School-Choice/School-Choice-FAQs/How-does-school-choice-affect-public-schools.aspx>.

[iv] Carolina Hoxby, "School Choice and School Productivity (or Could School Choice be a Tide that Lifts All Boats?)" *National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 8873* (April 2002) http://www.nber.org/papers/w8873.pdf?new_window=1.

[v] Matthew M. Chingos and Paul E. Peterson, "The Effects of School Vouchers on College Enrollment: Experimental Evidence from New York City," *The Brown Center on Education Policy at Brookings* (2012) http://www.hks.harvard.edu/pepg/PDF/Impacts_of_School_Vouchers_FINAL.pdf.

[vi] <http://www.edchoice.org/School-Choice/School-Choice-FAQs/Can-school-choice-help-students-with-special-needs.aspx>

[vii] David N. Figlio, "Evaluation of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program Participation, Compliance and Test Scores in 2010-11," *University of Florida, Northwestern University and National Bureau of Economic Research* (August 2012) <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/Portals/0/Resources/Documents/Independent%20Studies/2012%20Report%20on%20FTC%20Academic%20Gains.pdf>

[viii] <http://pefnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/PEFNC-tuition-data-paper-2013.pdf>

[ix] *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris*, 122 S.Ct. 2460 (2002).

[x] *Arizona Christian School Tuition Org. v. Winn*, 131 S.Ct. 1436 (2011).

[xi] <http://www.edchoice.org/CMSModules/EdChoice/FileLibrary/656/A-Win-Win-Solution—The-Empirical-Evidence-on-School-Vouchers.pdf>

[xii] <http://www.edchoice.org/CMSModules/EdChoice/FileLibrary/965/The-ABCs-of-School-Choice—2013-edition.pdf>

2013 NCCSA Educators' Convention

On September 26-27, the 2013 NCCSA Educators' Convention will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the Koury Convention Center. The convention theme this year is *Rekindling the Passion for Educating Students*.

General Session Speakers this year include: **Dann Patrick** - pastor of Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro, NC; **Kenny Baldwin** - pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in Bailey's Crossroads, Virginia; **Mark Rasmussen** - vice president of West Coast Baptist College. Workshops have been finalized, and the Master Workshop List will be on the NCCSA website during the first week of September.

This educators' convention is always a time of great fellowship and an outlet for professional instruction for your faculty/staff. Every NCCSA administrator, pastor, and staff member will benefit from this quality convention that has been planned to "jump start" the new school year toward excellence in every area. Our general session speakers always provide refreshing and encouraging spiritual challenges. Your staff needs this conference!

If you have not planned to attend the convention, make plans to do so today. The opportunity to provide your teachers with professional instruction and a place to fellowship and meet other teachers is irreplaceable. We are praying that the Lord will bless this convention and give sound academic instruction and encouragement to those who are some of the greatest Christian servants on earth—our Christian school teachers.

Registration information will be sent to each school in a few days. **This information will also be available on the NCCSA website.**

2013 NCCSA Educators' Convention
REKINDLING
 the **PASSION**
 for Educating Students

Dann Patrick
 Pastor of Faith FWB Church
 Goldsboro, NC

Kenny Baldwin
 Pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church
 Bailey's Crossroads, VA

Mark Rasmussen
 VP of West Coast Baptist College
 Lancaster, CA

September 26-27, 2013
Koury Convention Center
Greensboro, NC

www.nccsa.org

2013 All-State Music Clinic



The 2013 NCCSA All-State Choir/Band Clinic is scheduled for November 14-16, 2013, and will be held at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. Because of continued interest from NCCSA members, the NCCSA will be continuing the All-State Choir Clinic and follow a schedule format similar as last year.

Audition information for band students will be available in the coming days and will be emailed to each NCCSA school.

NCCSA UPDATE

July/August

Vol. 22, Issue 7

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2013-2014 Re-enrollment

Re-enrollment information for member schools will be sent out on August 20. **The deadline for NCCSA registration is September 5.** With a total membership of 14,819 members from 73 schools this past year, the NCCSA is anticipating another great year ahead. **Thank you for your support and for being a part of the NCCSA.** We look forward to seeing you at various events, and as always, we want to serve in assisting you to help your school excel in all areas. We join with you in the goal of preparing students to live for Christ.

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Spotlight on Tri-City Christian School—Conover

Tri-City Christian School opened its doors for ministry in August of 1996 as a ministry of Tri-City Baptist Church in Conover, NC. Tri-City Christian School was founded by Senior Pastor Stan Frye as a school ministry for the children of Tri-City Baptist Church and the surrounding communities of Conover, Newton, and Hickory. Today, TCCS serves approximately 200 students representing more than 50 churches from 5 different counties.

In August of 2013, Tri-City Christian will open its doors for the eighteenth year. God has richly blessed TCCS during the history of the school. In the area of facilities, TCCS has added educational space, a full-gym area with five standard classrooms to house the middle school program, and a full-service commercial kitchen. TCCS employs certified teachers and support staff

who love the Lord, seek after excellence in the classroom, and provide a strong biblical foundation in which students can grow and achieve. Each class opens with prayer, and each subject area is biblically integrated to build that foundation of truth. Chapel and ministry activities give students the opportunity to apply the biblical truth they are learning in their classes.

Academically, TCCS offers a quality educational program that utilizes A Beka and Bob Jones resources. The secondary program offers honors sections in all core classes as well as opportunities for dual enrollment with local community colleges. Students have the opportunity to participate in academic competitions, both individually and in groups. All upper-level students complete thirty service/ ministry hours per year, and all seniors are required to complete a senior ministry

project as a requirement for graduation. Athletically, TCCS offers ten varsity sports for its upper-level students, with the opportunity to participate as a team player or an individual. All of these opportunities serve to offer a TCCS student a complete, quality education.

Many students have crossed the TCCS graduation stage over seventeen years, seeking the Lord for the next step in their life's journey. Sixteen 2013 graduates gained admittance to seven different universities and earned over \$240,000 in academic, athletic, and music scholarship monies. One of those graduates will be pursuing full-time Christian ministry and representing TCCS wherever he goes! Through all of God's provision for TCCS, the school is confident that the best lies ahead for this Christian school ministry!