



2013 NCCSA Educators' Convention

Jason Haas, Ed.S.



The 2013 NCCSA Educators' Convention took place on September 26-27 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C. This was the first year the convention was held in Greensboro since 2005, and for the most part, the convention was a great success. ***According to the online evaluations and various social media posts, this year's convention may go down as one of the better NCCSA-State conventions in recent memory.*** The professional development offered in workshops was applicable and challenging, and the encouraging, passionate messages at the general sessions stirred our hearts. Many of you spoke of the wonderful fellowship and atmosphere that was evident at this year's convention.

To the 38 schools that attended, the NCCSA would like to say THANK YOU for putting a priority on professional staff development and fellowship for your faculty/staff.

Education is dramatically changing, and as educators, we must be in the forefront by continuing to provide high-quality education to students in our Christian schools. More than ever, Christian schools must develop and retain specific distinctives that relay to area parents the reasons why they enroll their children in our schools. Perhaps more than ever, parents are insisting that a professional development plan be a part of a school's overall educational plan. Professional development is the strategy schools use to ensure that educators continue to strengthen their skills throughout their teaching career. It also helps a school to ensure that faculty and staff are in agreement concerning philosophy and current trends and practices. While professional development can certainly mean a formal process such as the recent educators' convention, professional development can also take place in an informal manner during discussions with colleagues over a school matter, independent reading and research, observation of a colleague's work, or other peer collaboration.

If your school does not offer a formal professional development program or you did not attend this year's NCCSA Educators' Convention, we trust you will begin making plans now to attend the 2014 Southeast Christian School Convention with the state associations from Georgia and South Carolina. The fellowship, professional instruction, encouraging messages, and "break from the norm" that this affords your faculty/staff is well worth the investment.

All 2013 NCCSA Educators' Convention pictures are located [here](#).



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Opportunity Scholarship and Special Education Grants

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

On October 1, 2013, the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) released information and applications for parents wishing to apply for the Opportunity Scholarship Grants and the Children with Disabilities Scholarship Grants. It is important that this information be sent out **as soon as possible** to prospective parents wishing to apply for the grants.

Opportunity Scholarship Grant Eligibility requirements for the first year of the program are slightly different than those for subsequent years.

To qualify for a scholarship for the 2014-2015 school year, a child must:

- Reside in a household with an income level not in excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch
- Be a full-time student who has not graduated from high school and who attended a public school during the 2014 spring semester

After the 2014-2015 school year, students will be eligible if they have not yet received a high school diploma and meet **at least one** of the following requirements:

- Was a full-time student assigned to and attending a public school during the previous semester
- Received a scholarship during the previous school year
- Is entering kindergarten or the first grade
- Is a child in foster care
- Is a child whose adoption decree was entered not more than a year prior to applying for the scholarship

Special Education Scholarship Grant

- A child who meets all the requirements and is eligible for enrollment in

kindergarten or first grade in a NC public school during the 2013-2014 school year is eligible to receive a Special Education Scholarship Grant for the spring semester of the 2013-2014 school year.

Please click [here](#) to download PowerPoint presentations on the Scholarship Grant programs.

NCSEAA LINK: <http://www.ncseaa.edu/K-12Grants.htm>

Marriage and Religious Freedom Bill Introduced in U.S. House

Bipartisan legislation aimed at prohibiting the federal government from punishing individuals for exercising their religious beliefs about marriage as only the union of a man and a woman has been introduced in the U.S. House. **HR 3133—Marriage and Religious Freedom Act** was introduced on September 19 by Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID), along with co-sponsors Reps. Mike McIntyre (D-NC) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL). It currently has a total of 62 **co-sponsors**, including North Carolina Congressmen Mark Meadows (R-11) and Walter Jones (R-3).

The congressional sponsors of HR 3133 contend that the measure is necessary because of the U.S. Supreme Court's controversial June 2013 **decision**, striking down Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defined marriage for federal purposes as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." Since the high court's ruling, a number of federal agencies, including the IRS, have extended certain federal marriage benefits to legally "married" homosexual couples, even those who live in states that do not recognize same-sex "marriage." According to a **press release** from Rep. Labrador's office, the Supreme Court's DOMA ruling "opens the door for potential legal action against churches, organizations, non-profits or even individuals who hold a religious or moral belief that marriage is defined as a union between one man and one woman."

The stated purpose of HR 3133 is "to prevent adverse treatment of any person on the basis of views held with respect to marriage." It would specifically prohibit the federal government from

taking "an adverse action against a person, on the basis that such person acts in accordance with a religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman, or that sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage."

The measure defines "adverse action" as "any action taken by the Federal government," including:

- "acting through the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service, to deny or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of such person; or disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;
- to deny or exclude such person from receiving any Federal grant, contract, cooperative agreement, loan, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status;
- to deny or withhold from such person any benefit under a Federal benefit program; or
- to otherwise discriminate against such person." The text of HR 3133 includes a number of congressional findings, including noting that, "Leading legal scholars concur that conflicts between same-sex marriage and religious liberty are real and should be legislatively addressed," and emphasizing that, "Laws that protect the free exercise of religious beliefs about marriage will encourage private citizens and institutions to demonstrate similar tolerance and therefore contribute to a more respectful, diverse, and peaceful society."

According to Rep. Labrador's office, HR 3133 "has been endorsed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Organization for Marriage, Heritage Action, Family Research Council, Focus on the Family, The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Concerned Women for America."

"It is critical that institutions which hold the fundamental belief that marriage is between one man and one woman be protected in their convictions," **said** North Carolina Rep. McIntyre. "The Marriage and Religious Freedom Act will ensure that this right is protected, and they are not penalized for their beliefs and values."

2013 All-State Music Clinic

31ST ANNUAL
NCCSA
*All-State
Music Clinic*
November 14-16, 2013
www.nccsa.org

Three Days of Professional Instruction and Group Performances
All-State Choir • Honors Band
Symphonic Band • Concert Band



Clinic Instruction at
Wake Christian Academy
Hilltop Christian School

November 16 Performances at
Binkley Chapel
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Wake Forest, NC

The 2013 NCCSA All-State Music Clinic is scheduled for November 14-16, 2013. Students from across the state will participate in one of three bands, and students will also participate in the All-State Choir again this year.

The clinic rehearsals will be held at Wake Christian Academy and Hilltop Christian School.

The final performances will take place at the Binkley Chapel at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. The gates will open at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 16. Tickets will be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis in the lobby of Binkley Chapel.

Audition results and registration information will be available in a few days. More information about the clinic is available on the [NCCSA website](http://www.nccsa.org).

2013 NCCSA Journalism Packet

The **2013 NCCSA Journalism Packet** is online and can be downloaded [here](#). Please review this packet carefully as well as the rules in the NCCSA Fine Arts Manual (2010 edition).

Because the Sr. High topics are not given until the time of writing, this **packet is password-protected. The password has been emailed to NCCSA members.**

Another document that will prove helpful for the upcoming fine arts season is the [2013-2014 AACS Information document](#). This document includes information about the books of the Bible for the Bible Quiz and academic testing competitions, the Debate topic for the 2014 competition, etc.

2013 Convention Evaluation/CEU Download

As was listed in the program book and explained at the convention, all convention evaluations and CEUs are being administered online this year. **PLEASE REMIND YOUR SCHOOL'S CONVENTION ATTENDEES OF THE ONLINE EVALUATION BECAUSE THERE WILL BE NO OTHER WAY TO OBTAIN THE CEU CERTIFICATE.** The password was given at the convention and was listed on page 4 of the convention program book. [Click here](#) to begin the survey. **The survey and CEU certificate will be online until Wednesday, October 23.**

2013 AACS Legislative Conference

School administrators, pastors, teachers, and state leaders convened in Washington, D.C. September 9-11, 2013, for the AACS National Legislative Conference. This year's theme was "Educating the Generation to Come" from Psalm 102:18 which states, "This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD." Special messages and inspiring presentations from speakers and Christian lawmakers highlighted the important role AACS plays in preparing the next generation to stand for truth in the challenging days ahead.

At the start of the conference, Dr. Douglas Jackson, president of the Michigan Association of Christian Schools and pastor of Community Baptist Church and Community Baptist Christian School in Saginaw, delivered an uplifting message from Isaiah 6 that challenged those in attendance, encouraging them to stand strong for the Lord. Special music during the opening service was provided by the award winning band from Faith Baptist School located in Fredericksburg, Virginia, under the direction of Mr. Kenneth Biggs.

At the start of the conference, the AACS Legislative Office hosted a Legislative Briefing to educate attendees about education issues as well as religious liberty threats that exist at the federal level affecting private schools. Jamison Coppola (Legislative Director), Maureen Van Den Berg (Policy Analyst), and Courtney Holloway (Legislative Assistant) led the briefing, focusing on three specific legislative priorities: educating Hill staffers about concerns with the Administration's preschool agenda, defending religious liberty by urging Members of Congress to pass the Health Care Conscience Rights Act, and maintaining for Christian schools the protections that are contained in the Elementary and Secondary Act reauthorization plan.

On Tuesday, participants attended a Congressional Briefing where they heard remarks from [Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers](#) (WA), [Rep. David Schweikert](#) (AZ), [Senator Rand Paul](#) (KY), and [Rep. Tim Huelskamp](#) (KS). The Members urged the attendees to engage in the public policy debates that are affecting our country. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chairman of the House Republican Conference, reflected on how Christian education both influenced and prepared her for her current leadership roles in the House of Representatives. Rep. Schweikert advised listeners never to underestimate the ability of people of faith to change the course of the country. Later, Senator Rand Paul spoke about the importance of combining a return to the nation's founding principles with self-restraint as the path to preserve our democratic form of government. Finally, Rep. Huelskamp spoke candidly about the strain of public service on Members' families and requested prayer for God's guidance for those in Congress.

Several members of the American Association of Christian Colleges and Seminaries, the AACS's higher education affiliate, attended the conference and were able to visit with Members about issues affecting their institutions. The representatives also discussed their unique concerns with Rep. Virginia Foxx (NC), Chairman of the Higher Education Subcommittee on the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

A highlight of the conference was the speaker at the Annual Legislative Banquet: Representative Jim Jordan. In his remarks, Rep. Jordan stressed that the true answer for America's ills is strong families, churches, and Christian schools. He countered that in spite of unrelenting attacks on religious liberty, there is still hope for America's future. Furthermore, he thanked the group for AACS's work to preserve faith, family, and freedom by instilling foundational principles and self-discipline in their students. At the close, he quoted 2 Timothy 4:7 which is his life verse.

Prior to his address, the AACS honored Rep. Jordan with the American Freedom Award for his work to preserve religious liberty and education freedom in America. The banquet also provided the opportunity to honor Maureen Van Den Berg for her service as AACS Legislative Director for the past eight years. Lastly, Daniel Austin, student at Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy in Fairfax Station, Virginia, spoke about how participation in the National Fine Arts competition led to a call to the ministry.

Following the banquet, everyone was invited to attend a special tour of the Lincoln Memorial hosted by Dr. Tim Schmig, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Christian Schools. During the tour, Dr. Schmig discussed the culture of the time period during which President Lincoln lived and how it affected his leadership during the Civil War and its aftermath. He pointed out the Biblical references in the Gettysburg Address and Lincoln's second Inaugural Address which are inscribed on the walls of the memorial. At the conclusion, participants were treated to a great view of the National Mall from the north portico.

An additional highlight of this year's conference was a briefing at the [Heritage Foundation](#), hosted exclusively for the AACS National Legislative Conference. During the briefing, the group received an update on school choice from [Lindsey Burke](#), a noted education policy expert at The Heritage Foundation. Mrs. Burke spoke about the increase of the federal footprint in state and local education decisions, and also discussed the growing opposition to the Common Core Standards movement. She advocated a broad array of school choice options that empower parents to make the best decision for their child, and also addressed the recent move by the Department of Justice to prevent students in Louisiana from escaping failing schools.

Secondly, [Sarah Torre](#), policy analyst at The Heritage Foundation, highlighted the main area of attack on religious liberty as the HHS preventive services mandate which forces employers to violate their conscience or pay fines. She warned attendees about the push to confine religion to the four walls of the church and effectively ban faith in the public square.

Finally, [Ryan Anderson](#), William E. Simon Fellow in Religion and a Free Society at The Heritage Foundation, delineated the differences in the three dissents issued by the justices in the *United States v. Windsor* marriage decision handed down by the Supreme Court in June and the subsequent repercussions for federal and state marriage policies. Mr. Anderson [presented](#) the case for preserving a strong marriage culture and the need for people of faith to be involved in the battle to defend marriage. He pointed to several factors—no fault divorce, the hook-up culture, and the redefinition of marriage—as the primary cause for the weakening of this foundational institution. State leaders were able to discuss the particular issues facing the marriage amendments in their states.

We thank God for a successful conference and for all the individuals who made it possible. We also thank you for your many prayers for the conference as well as for the AACS Legislative Office. The conference served to reinvigorate all of us as we continue to serve in our ministries. God provided opportunities for our members to establish relationships and connect with Congressional offices about our concerns. Thank you to all who made this conference a success!

2013-2014 NCCSA Re-Enrollment Data

Listed below are some figures that were recently collected on the latest NCCSA re-enrollment forms. Many times throughout the year, we are asked by other state associations and other various individuals for average tuition and salary figures for our state. The chart below includes those figures.

All schools stated that they took some type of achievement test. Out of 1,640 teachers, nearly 732 are currently certified with the NCCSA. As of now, there are nine NCCSA accredited schools, two that have accreditation team visits planned for this year, and five that are working toward future team visits. The NCCSA has 68 schools this year with a total NCCSA enrollment of 14,342.

	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Tuition</u>			<u>Starting Salary</u>	<u>Average Salary</u>
	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Annual Kinder.</u>	<u>Annual Elem.</u>	<u>Annual JH/SH</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>
AVERAGE	\$452.73	\$3,197.06	\$3,356.00	\$3,499.78	\$17,222.48	\$20,552.60
HIGHEST	\$934.00	\$5,500.00	\$6,125.00	\$6,487.50	\$23,750.00	\$30,000.00
LOWEST	\$150.00	\$1,215.00	\$1,180.00	\$1,215.00	\$8,000.00	\$11,000.00

Enrollment Increase

0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-50	51-75
8	7	6	0	2	2	0
11%	10%	8%	0%	3%	3%	0%

Enrollment Decrease

0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-50	51-75
12	7	4	7	3	5	1
17%	10%	6%	10%	4%	7%	1%

Notes:

71 total number of NCCSA member schools in 2012-2013
68 total number of NCCSA member schools in 2013-2014

25 schools had an increase in enrollment from 3-11%

39 schools had a decrease in enrollment from 1-17%

3 schools had no change in enrollment

3 schools that were members in 2012 have closed

2 schools that were members in 2012 have not reenrolled for 2013-2014

2 new schools have joined for 2013-2014

NCCSA UPDATE

September/October

Vol. 23, Issue 2

Joe Haas, Ed.D.—Executive Director

Jason Haas, Ed.S.—Director of Programs/
Services, NCCSA UPDATE Editor

The NCCSA UPDATE is published bi-monthly by the North Carolina Christian School Association. The NCCSA UPDATE is designed for Christian educators, pastors, and parents. All published material included in the NCCSA UPDATE is Copyright © 2013 by NCCSA UPDATE and is subject to U.S. copyright laws. Permission to reproduce may be requested by contacting the NCCSA State Office.

Articles pertaining to education may be submitted to NCCSA, P.O. Box 231, Goldsboro, NC 27533. The staff reserves the right to correct grammar and spelling, clarify and modify content, adapt to style, and adjust to fit available space.



School Campus Security

On January 23, 2013, the NCCSA emailed an information packet to all NCCSA schools regarding various safety opportunities for your school. These opportunities involved online safety training as well as various security companies that many schools have hired to install a security system.

A special deal was arranged for all NCCSA schools with SafeSchools regarding their numerous training modules. The January 23 packet is still available online [here](#).

If your school is interested in finding out more about companies that other NCCSA schools use to install security systems, please contact the NCCSA State Office via [this online form](#).



SafeSchools

Spotlight on Union Grove Christian School—Lexington

As a ministry of Union Grove Baptist Church and under the leadership of Dr. Harold Fletcher, the congregation of Union Grove Baptist Church founded Union Grove Christian School in 1975. The school began with a preschool program and added one or two grades a year. In 1990, Union Grove Christian School graduated its first senior class of 14 students.

In 2002, after 38 years of serving at Union Grove Baptist Church, Pastor Harold Fletcher retired. Pastor Ken Harris then assumed the church pastorate, returning to a ministry in which he had once served as assistant pastor and school administrator. For the past 11 years, Pastor Harris has provided strong leadership while casting a vision for growth in the ministries of Union Grove Baptist Church. Union Grove Christian School has experienced God's rich blessings over the years and today has the responsibility of ministering to over 435 students.

A ten-acre campus serves the school well. A junior/senior high building, a gymnasium, an elementary/daycare building, and church Sunday School rooms house students, along with a soccer/softball field and two playgrounds.

The Mission of UGCS is to be an extension of the Christian home and Bible-believing church in challenging and inspiring each student to know Jesus Christ personally and to seek God's truth and wisdom in all areas of life. UGCS challenges students to strive for excellence and integrity in their academic, creative, and athletic endeavors. UGCS takes very seriously the responsibility of providing an education that is Biblically based. Along with Union Grove's commitment to providing a well-developed curriculum, UGCS also provides students with extra opportunities of learning in the areas of P.E., computer, and music. Faculty and staff members realize their role in placing into the minds and hearts of students the arsenal of truth that will enable them to respond to the

questions of a world void of truth.

Because the key to using the curriculum and teaching students is the teacher, UGCS seeks to hire Christian teachers with high spiritual values and a call to education. The UGCS faculty is committed to working with parents and students to educate and influence young people to conform to the image of Jesus Christ and to think biblically.

Union Grove seeks to provide a full educational experience for its students. UGCS offers a full athletic program which competes in the NCCSA and the Carolina Christian Conference. Students can also participate in fine arts competition and school plays. Qualifying students have the opportunity to become members of the American Christian Honor Society.

In an effort to further improve the quality of its program, UGCS has begun the voluntary accreditation process through the NCCSA and looks forward to completing that process during the 2013-2014 school year.