

Commission on Lutheran Schools - PNW District Report

Synodical Highlights

The gender identity ruling, new wage laws, and the changing moral compass of America have the leaders at the Center of Mission and Ministry continually seeking to protect the freedoms of our schools and put them in the best position to share the gospel to our congregations and communities. During the last months many conversations have taken place with WELS president's office, communications, human resources, and Lutheran schools on these and other topics. WELS sought or received counsel from our lawyers, legislators, groups such as the Council for American Private Education (CAPE) state CAPEs such as the Wisconsin Council on Religious and Independent Schools, the Institute for Law and Liberty, and others.

In recent weeks, the CLS has sent out documents titled "Safeguarding Religious Freedoms". It is strongly recommended that all of our school leaders become familiar with these documents and look at their school's policy and written materials to ensure that we are prepared when our schools come under attack from outside groups.

The CLS is also focusing on the lack of school leadership that our synod is currently facing. There has been an increase in the amount of attention given to leadership training in the WELS. Both the principal training program and new principal/director mentoring programs are designed to encourage and train men to serve as principals and women to serve as ELC directors. Please continue to pray for faithful leaders of our schools and for schools to value the leadership that they currently have.

Please reference pages 51-53 of the RTTD for more information about the CLS.

PNW Highlights/Upcoming Events

Telling the next generation: Utilizing our schools for outreach

The Commissions on Evangelism and Lutheran Schools are jointly offering a new one-day School of Outreach seminar focused on effective outreach practices for our schools. The six-hour program is designed for pastors, principals, early childhood directors, and other church and school leaders to gather for interactive presentations on maintaining a Christ-centered mission, the critical role of relationships, and a planned and effective harvest strategy. Each ministry team is also provided with an advisor to consult with in the months following the seminar. Our goal is to offer this seminar in the PNW during the 2016-2017 school year.

School Counselors

We are going to continue to strive to work on improving our school counseling program in the PNW. The program has been in hibernation in the past. We are working on continuing to improve this process so that our schools are visited on a regular basis ensuring that we continue to find ways to improve our practice.

Principal Retreat

With a large turn over in principal leadership in the PNW, the principals will be having a second annual retreat this summer. The goal of the meeting is to grow spiritually and professionally while getting to know each other personally.

Early Childhood Workshop

Last summer, Sara Lange organized a workshop for ELC teachers. The workshop was designed to provide professional development for preschool and primary teachers. We are going to continue to look at options to offer professional growth and fellowship for these called workers and hope to offer more classes in the future. One of the greatest challenges for ELC teachers to get together is the fact that they are often working year round providing child care in the summer.