



DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 10% or 121,000 Wisconsin K-12 students attend private schools.
- The vast majority of private school students are enrolled in grades K-8 and graduate on to attend public high schools.
- WCRIS schools enroll nearly 85% of all private K-12 students in Wisconsin.
- WCRIS schools employ close to 10,000 staff.
- If there were no private schools, Wisconsin state and local taxes would have to increase more than \$1 billion annually to pay for the students' education in public schools.

DONATE TODAY

Wisconsin Council
of Religious & 
Independent Schools
Committed to a Higher Standard



OUR MEMBERS

**Association of Christian Schools
International (ACSI)**

Christian Schools International (CSI)

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)

North and South Wisconsin districts

Roman Catholic Dioceses of Wisconsin

*Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Superior
and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee*

**Wisconsin Conference of Seventh Day
Adventists (WCSDA)**

**Wisconsin Association of
Independent Schools (WAIS)**

**Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran
Synod (WELS)**

*Northern, Western and Southeastern
Wisconsin districts*



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**WI Council of Religious & Independent
Schools (WCRIS)**

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WHO WE ARE

WCRIS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization representing more than 100,000 K-12 students in 600 Catholic, Lutheran, Christian, Seventh Day Adventist and independent schools across Wisconsin.

WCRIS is nonpartisan and does not engage in electioneering, campaigning or electoral politics.

WCRIS is a charter member of the Council for American Private Education (CAPE), our national affiliate that monitors federal legislation and advocates on our behalf in Washington D.C.

OUR MISSION

WCRIS supports the unique missions of member schools through advocacy, education and partnerships, to ensure an extraordinary education and equitable opportunity for each child.

OUR CORE BELIEFS

We support policies that align with our core beliefs:

- 1** All children have the right to a quality, affordable education.
- 2** Economic status should not determine whether a child receives a quality education.
- 3** Our educational system must be designed to facilitate the growth of quality educational institutions, both public and private.



OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since our founding in 1974, WCRIS has:

- Helped amend the state constitution to provide equitable busing for private school children;
- Advocated for the Parental Choice Programs to include religious schools and to cover special needs students and families statewide;
- Helped create a Wisconsin tax deduction for K-12 tuition expenses, saving private school parents an estimated \$30 million;
- Created a partnership with the state to provide Private School Ombudsman Services;
- Protected private school teachers' access to full and fair state licensure.

Daily, the WCRIS staff works to:

- Protect private school students' access to busing;
- Provide technical assistance for state and federal special education programs;
- Plan professional development opportunities for private school principals and teachers;
- Prevent countless laws from being passed that hamper our schools' independence;
- Decipher rules and regulations that control programs serving private schools;
- Promote educational excellence in both private and public schools.