THE CHURCH'S CALLING *and* EDUCATION

How to Start a Private School

MARK R. SCHNEIDER

PROTECT OUR KIDS

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

3 John 1:4

The Church's Calling and Education: How to Start a Private School

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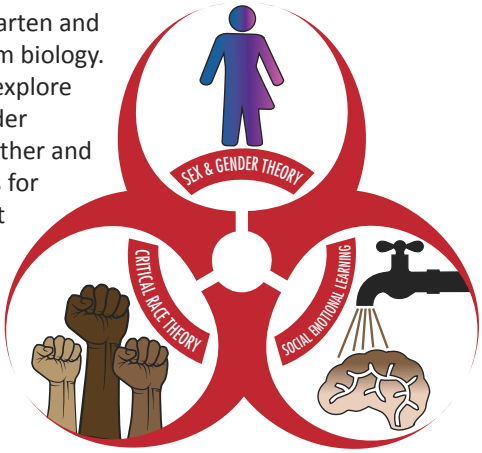
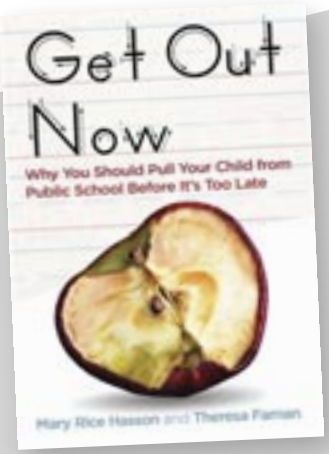
Introduction

American education is in crisis. The U.S. spends more per student than virtually every nation on earth.[1] But for all its wealth, America ranks in the middle to bottom rungs academically.[2] Far worse, our nation's public schools have become ideological indoctrination camps. The worldview taught in today's public schools embodies what POK calls the "Triple Threat": 1) *Sex & Gender Theory*, 2) *Critical Race Theory,* and 3) *Social & Emotional Learning.*



Sex and Gender Theory starts in kindergarten and teaches children to separate gender from biology. Kids in grade school are encouraged to explore and embrace subjective sexual and gender identities. In some states, schools go further and facilitate sex related medical treatments for minor children without parental consent or knowledge. *Critical Race Theory* teaches that the American way of life is systemically corrupt and that all its most important institutions—representative government, free market economy, the nuclear family—are tools of white patriarchy to oppress people of color. *Social & Emotional Learning* is a form of woke replacement parenting. Through lesson plans and group therapy sessions, children are conditioned to abandon conventional ideas of American values and to see themselves as "global citizens."



In their book, "Get Out Now," authors Mary Rice Hasson and Theresa Farnon conclude:

"The public schools, with their vast political and bureaucratic machinery, are beyond reform. That does not mean that persons of good will should not offer themselves up as missionaries of truth and goodness and beauty, to teach there... But we would be quite mad to send our children there. We send missionaries to cannibals. We do not send cannibals our boys and girls."[3]

[1] https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/cmd
[2] https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/15/u-s-students-internationally-math-science/
[3] Mary Rice Hasson and Theresa Farnon, Get Out Now (New Jersey: Regnery Gateway, 2018), p. 176

Sadly, for most parents, removing children from the public schools is an impossible dream. Average private school tuitions are nearly $12k/year for elementary school and over $15k/year for high school.[4] And while home-schooling has seen record growth it still only represents a fraction of K-12 students. *The National Home Education Research Institute* (NHERI) estimates the homeschooled population to be between 4-6% and the private school population to be around 8%, which means that close to 90% of our nation's school-aged children, some 70M, are captive to the public-schools.[5] The result? As reported by George Barna,[6] even for those who attend evangelical churches only 21% have a Biblical worldview. A few hours on Sunday mornings cannot make up for the asymmetrical impact of public education.

What, specifically, can the local church do? ***Start a private school!*** Just as the Church led the Abolitionist movement of the early nineteenth century, so now must it lead the effort to protect children from state-sponsored harm. And the most practical way to accomplish this is to offer private school alternatives to parents who otherwise cannot afford it.

Church based schools reflect the roots of American education.
Schools committed to the Biblical worldview can literally transform the lives of children held captive by the public-school monopoly.

But to make a difference, a church-based school must embrace three central imperatives:

- ✓ Teach a Biblically based worldview
- ✓ Pursue academic excellence
- ✓ Make it affordable for the average family

Like any worthwhile endeavor, starting a school takes commitment, skill, and determination. Yet few efforts hold more promise for changing lives.
It's time the church stops outsourcing the education of its children and take back the ground it should never have ceded.

Imagine a generation of children trained up with a Christ centered worldview. It would change the culture!

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[4] https://www.privateschoolreview.com/tuition-stats/private-school-cost-by-state
[5] https://www.nheri.org/how-many-homeschool-students-are-there-in-the-united-states-pre-covid-19-and-post-covid-19/
[6] https://downloads.frc.org/EF/EF21E41.pdf

How to Start a Private School

Starting a school involves a lot of moving parts. Human resources, facility preparation, state and local regulations, curriculum planning, budgeting, legal, and insurance all come into play. Assuming the Senior Pastor and Elder Board have decided to pursue such a venture, where does one begin? Having been involved in the creation of several church-based schools POK offers the following guidelines.

1 Form A Start Up Team (3-6 members)

Step one is to identify individuals with the passion, temperament, and intellectual gifting to lead the investigation and creation of a private school.[7] Similar to an entrepreneurial model, this initial team may not stay involved after the school is up and running. The Start Up Team's purpose is, rather, to plan and develop the school and manage its initial completion. POK suggests this team include at least three members but will likely include more as planning progresses.

[7] By "private school" we mean any combination of private, homeschool, or hybrid models.

KEY START UP TEAM MEMBERS. Given the strategic nature of establishing a church-based school, its important that the **Senior Pastor or ranking member of the Elder Board** be a member to provide overall direction, keep track of progress, and inform stakeholders along the way. Depending on pre-existing responsibilities, however, this role may not necessarily be active in day-to-day activities.

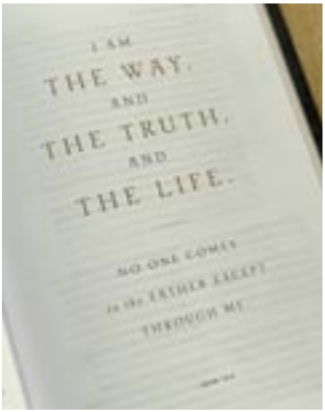
The second critical member of the Start Up team can be thought of as the private school **CHAMPION**. The Champion will serve as the Team's Leader and have the primary responsibility for driving the team's activities forward. This individual must, therefore, be a person able to organize and inspire others, someone with demonstrated competency and passion for the role. While not essential, past teaching or school administrative experience is an obvious plus.

The third key member is the Team's **ADMINISTRATIVE AID**. This individual will serve to document and track activities, schedule meetings, take minutes, ensure follow up, and help others to keep on task.

Other members of the Start Up Team are those the Champion/Team Lead decides to recruit for specific assignments. Again, school related experience is helpful for these additional roles, as is proven experience planning and implementing projects. Since the Team is responsible for investigating and recommending key decisions to church leadership it's vital that its members have proven character and work well together.

START UP TEAM OBJECTIVE. The Start Up Team's objective, or end-product, should be a draft **Business Plan** that documents the team's work and recommendations and that can be presented to the Church's governing Board for consideration and approval. This document should be produced, therefore, in a manner that can be used for fund-raising if and when the opportunity arises.

2 Establish Mission



The next step is to develop the school's mission. Ideally, the mission should mirror that of the host church but be specific to its **academic purpose**. Here are examples of mission statements from several private schools with Biblical worldviews:

> *"SCA's mission is to partner with parents to provide their students with a comprehensive, college preparatory education from a Christian perspective."*
> **Spirit Christian Academy**

> *"Our mission is to provide an education of academic excellence at an affordable cost, founded on Christian principles."*
> **Harbor Light Christian School**

> *"The Mission of the Orange County Classical Academy is to develop students in mind and character through a classical, content-rich liberal arts and sciences curriculum that emphasizes the principles of scholarship, moral character, and civic virtue."*
> **Orange Classical Academy**

> *"The King's Academy is a Christ-centered school that inspires academic excellence, servant leadership, and enduring relationships."*
> **The Kings Academy**

Closely tied to the school's mission is its "statement of faith" which should mirror that of the host church. Both the mission and statement of faith will be made available to parents of prospective students and other interested parties. Together, they will establish the school's purpose and inform everything that follows.

3 Choose a School Model

The next step is to choose the kind of private school the church intends to develop. When most people think "school," they have in mind a Monday thru Friday, classroom experience, led by full-time administrators and teaching staff. And indeed, for churches that have the vision, facilities, and finances, this is the ideal as it provides a replacement model to the local public school. But there's a lot of variety in the way private schools operate today and churches should not feel unnecessarily constrained by lack of initial resources. Technology and volunteers are great levelers!

Before deciding on a school model, the Team should familiarize itself with the state compulsory education laws and any exceptions. For example, in California all children between the ages of 6 and 18 must attend a full-time public school **unless exempted**.[8] Under the law, a full-time private day school is exempted.[9] Also exempted are homeschools that file what's known as the **PRIVATE SCHOOL AFFIDAVIT** (PSA).[10] In California, homeschools are considered a unique category of private schools. Other states offer similar, but not exact rules, that the Team will need to investigate. With this in mind, there are several common private school models the Team should consider:

✓ **CONVENTIONAL PRIVATE SCHOOL** (Public-School Replacement model). This model describes a school with dedicated classrooms and teaching staff with Monday thru Friday, morning to afternoon, sessions. As mentioned, this is the ideal model for the obvious reason that it offers parents a clear alternative to the public schools. Because most parents find themselves having to work during the day having a full-time private school choice that's both affordable and offers academic excellence is a Godsend!

✓ **PRIVATE SCHOOL SATELLITE PROGRAM** (PSP). A PSP can be thought of as a type of private homeschool, but where an administering agent—like a

[8] California Education Code, Section 48200 https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=48200.&lawCode=EDC
[9] https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/cefprivinstr.asp
[10] https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/psaffedcode.asp

church—files the annual Private School Affidavit on behalf of the parent or guardian. PSP's also typically keep records of student performance and help craft instructional plans. In this model, the church provides a legal covering, use of facilities, and administrative support. Most of the actual teaching, however, is done through volunteer parents, either at home or in conjunction with other parents at church facilities.

✓ **REMOTE LEARNING.** In this model, the church offers its facilities to host what is essentially a remote learning experience. There are several organizations that offer a complete fee-based on-line educational experience. The church's role would be to offer classrooms, a proctor, and the technology to facilitate what is essentially online learning. All the record keeping and instruction, however, is managed by the service provider. One of the better-known providers of remote learning is the **IlumenEd** platform from **Renewanation**. This online platform offers a complete K-12 Christian education experience from credentialed teachers working remotely.

✓ **HYBRID.** The hybrid model combines the attributes of a conventional private school and a PSP that relies on parent volunteers. It could also employ remote learning to supplement teaching as needed. The hybrid approach is often a good starting model for the church that desires to offer a full-time educational option for working parents but can't afford teacher's salaries and other operational costs. The staffing for the hybrid model is a combination of paid staff and volunteers. It may offer live, in-class, instruction with a combination of paid and volunteer teachers. Or it may offer in-class instruction for part of the week but rely on a combination of remote learning and parents teaching off-site for the rest of the week.

4 Choose Grade Levels

The decision of what grades to teach depends on several variables, most notably: available classrooms, finances, and staffing. Some large churches have a gymnasium and outdoor areas that along with sports can serve as teaching venues.

Even for churches with ample space, POK recommends starting small. Primary (K-8) and Secondary education (9-12) require different skill sets, resources, budgets, and staffing. Even within primary education there are obvious differences between teaching kindergartners and budding adolescents.

Where possible, POK suggests starting with K-5th grades to provide parents with a full elementary school option. If not feasible an alternative path is to plan a sequenced approach to grade levels, where new grades are added with successive years of school experience. For example, a school may decide to begin operations on day one for say, Kindergarten through 3rd grade. The following year a new grade (4th) is added, and so on for each year until the desired grade levels are achieved. Using this approach, schools that start with grades K-3, but intend to offer a full Elementary School experience would reach that goal in year four of operation. For schools that intend to offer a full K-12 private school experience, the "start slow" approach would achieve this goal by its 10th year of operation.

Sequenced Approach to Grade Levels

	Elementary School					Middle School		High School		
Year of School Operation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Grades Taught	K-3	K-4	K-5	K-6	K-7	K-8	K-9	K-10	K-11	K-12

State attendance requirements must be considered for each grade. Most have school year attendance requirements of between 160 and 180 days. However, the teaching time in hours will vary depending on the grade taught. In California, school attendance requirements are as follows:

- **Kindergarten ~ 600 hours**
- **Grades 1-3 ~ 840 hours**
- **Grades 4-8 ~ 900 hours**
- **Grades 9 12 ~ 1080 hours**

For specific state requirements visit: Education Commission of the United States.[11]

[11] https://ecs.secure.force.com/mbdata/mbquest2ci?rep=IT1801-2

5 Choose Academic Approach

The next step is to decide the educational philosophy and method of teaching. This is a critically important step for the school's long-term development. Rather than "reinventing the wheel," POK suggests the Team first look at several tried-and-true approaches:

✓ **SIMPLY CHAROLETTE MASON** (SCM): This educational approach stresses the "whole-person" vs. pure academics. "Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life." By "Atmosphere" is meant the child's home life and parental influence, which, according to the SCM should make up 1/3 of a child's education. "Discipline" refers to good habits to develop good character and comprises the second 1/3 of education. Finally, the term "Life" relates to academics that is oriented around "living thoughts and ideas, not just dry facts." Teaching under SCM emphasizes stories and narratives to convey subject matter. Students are encouraged to talk about what they've read to make the material "come alive." This same approach is applied from the Bible to Shakespeare and from algebra to poetry. Entire curriculums are available based on the SCM approach. For more information go to: https://simplycharlottemason.com

✓ **UNIVERSITY MODEL SCHOOLING** (UMS): Along with academics, UMS stresses character development and places great emphasis on student activities. However, its main feature is that, like a university, formal class instruction is held in two or three-day-a-week sessions. The remainder of the week is spent at home in what are called "satellite" sessions. Like a college, students attend class based either on a Tuesday and Thursday schedule, or alternatively, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The benefit of UMS is that it prepares students for college and independent study. UMS relies heavily on parents, which could be a limiting factor as it requires a parent or guardian to be available on non-school days. On the other hand, teachers work part time which can mean lowered tuition costs. For more information on the UMS model go to: https://umsi.org/about-umsi/about-the-um/

✓ **CLASSICAL EDUCATION** (CE): The CE model is perhaps the best-known faith-based private school model. Homeschoolers, particularly, look to it for its academic excellence and strong Biblical roots. The CE model is based around what is called the *trivium*, which describes a three-part process for "training the mind." The first part occurs in early school years where a student's supple mind is taught to absorb and memorize facts. This is known as the "grammar stage." In the middle grades students learn to analyze the world around them through cause and effect and algebraic relationships. This is aptly referred to as the "logic stage." In high school students begin what is called the "Rhetoric Stage" where they learn to write and speak forcefully. As the name implies, the CE model relies heavily on the classics of Western civilization where studies progress from the Ancients and Middle Ages through the Renaissance, Reformation and into Modern Times. For more information on the rigorous CE model go to: https://welltrainedmind.com/a/classical-education/

✓ **UNIT STUDIES** (US): The US approach describes a theme, or unit, based approach to teaching. Units are focused on a particular teaching topic that students saturate themselves in for an extended period until the subject matter is mastered. All activities during this "period" are tailored to teach the particular theme. For example, very young children might have a unit on "colors" or "shapes," while older children might have a unit on the "Middle Ages." Many pre-packaged unit curriculums are available for this model. For more information on the US model go to: https://unitstudy.com/pages/what-is-a-unit-study

✓ **ECLECTIC**: The Eclectic model is basically a mix and match or do-it-yourself approach to private education. The school or teacher combines various approaches to teach material based on what best works best for their mission, academic philosophy, and learners. Traditionally applied to language learning, many homeschoolers have adopted the Eclectic approach to custom tailor teaching and curriculums for their children's specific abilities and needs. The Eclectic model offers the most flexibility, but also the most planning work for teaching staff. For more information go to: https://www.time4learning.com/homeschooling-styles/eclectic-homeschool.html

A Word about Curriculums. While many agonize over the choice of curriculums it's an unnecessary concern. The choice of curriculum(s) will stem naturally from the mission and academic approach. Even schools that adopt the Eclectic or do-it-yourself approach will find a rich repository of packaged curriculums that are Biblically based and grade appropriate. Where suitable, schools can also take advantage of curriculums used in public education. There are ample resources to help choose which curriculum best suits a particular need. Here are some samples from curriculum providers endorsed by the private/homeschool community:

- Rainbow Resource Center,[12]
- Summit Ministries,[13]
- BJU Press,[14]
- Veritas Press,[15]
- Abeka,[16]
- The Good and the Beautiful,[17]
- Masterbooks,[18]
- Math-U-See,[19]
- Mathematical Reasoning,[20]
- Saxon Math[21]

These are examples of literally thousands of curriculum options to choose from. Again, the specific curriculum choice should naturally stem from the mission and teaching approach. For this reason, POK recommends that the Team defer specific curriculum decisions until school staff is brought on board.

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[12] https://www.rainbowresource.com/category/28/CURRICULUM-RESOURCES.html
[13] https://www.summit.org/curriculum/
[14] https://www.christianbook.com/page/homeschool/bju-press?utm_source=google&kw=127983375730&mt=&dv=c&event=PPCSRC&p=1186432&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIuI_-5NOj9gIV0Rx9Ch2FBgRHEAAYASAAEgLx_PD_BwE
[15] https://veritaspress.com
[16] https://www.abeka.com/Resources/Downloads/Default.aspx
[17] https://www.goodandbeautiful.com/about/
[18] https://www.masterbooks.com
[19] https://mathusee.com
[20] https://www.criticalthinking.com/mathematical-reasoning.html
[21] https://www.christianbook.com/page/homeschool/math/saxon-math?kw=saxon%20math&mt=e&dv=c&event=PPCSRC&p=1020037&msclkid=2660802979a411c79629e26238eea2cf&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Homeschool&utm_term=saxon%20math&utm_content=saxon

6 Establish Tuition & Expenses

Tuition and expenses are obviously important considerations. Recall the second imperative for the church private school—*affordable for the average family.* Most parents with available finances who are alarmed about the public schools are already private or homeschooling. But these represent less than 12% of all families.[22] The average national elementary school tuition (of > $10,000) is well beyond what most parents can afford. Thus, an important goal of the church school should be to keep tuitions and expenses as low as possible.

What parents are charged in tuitions will be a function of the school's operational costs and the church's ability/willingness to subsidize. One strategy is to develop a 3-5 year plan where tuitions during this period are subsidized from a church budget line item established specifically for this purpose. As enrollments/revenue increase over time these subsidies can be reduced. Even in California there are church private schools offering tuitions ranging from $7000/year all the way down to $1000/year depending on the grades taught. For grade school (K-5), POK recommends a target tuition of between $3000-$5000/year. The lower end of this range should be manageable for the average parent/family. Expenses (books, materials, laptops) can be passed onto the parents in most cases.

7 Plan School Administration & Teacher Staffing

As with any new venture experience matters and having a staff of veterans can make the difference between success and failure. Ideally, the school should plan on hiring at least some professional (credentialed) administrators and teachers. Knowing the school has professional staff provides parents greater confidence that their children will be well taught.

[22] https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=55

Of course, licensed professionals come with a cost. Data on teacher salaries varies depending on the source. According to Salary.com, "The average (2022) teacher salary in California is $68.559,...but the range typically falls between $59.936 and $79,198." Indeed places the average teacher base salary in California at $21.04/hour. The California Department of Education also reports public-school teacher salaries.

While the prospect of paying multiple salaries at these levels may seem daunting, bear in mind that many candidates will rightly view teaching at a church school as a personal mission with an expectation of constrained salaries. In addition, there are likely retired, part-time, and substitute teachers who are willing to commit their time. Of course, having a credential does not magically impart talent, and you will discover highly educated and skilled individuals who, though non-credentialed, are available to teach. The good news is that most states have no legal requirement that private school teachers be credentialed.

How do you find your school staff? You may want to first look in your own backyard. In larger congregations it's likely there are teaching and other professionals who may be recruitable. But caveat emptor! Availability and suitability are not always in harmony. Wisdom and prayer should accompany job recruitment, starting with the Principal or Administrator. A careful, qualified, search may be needed to identify and successfully recruit this person and other teaching staff. Along with personal networking, job listing sites may also be used such as: Edjoin, LinkedIn, and Indeed.

Expect and plan for your teaching staff to be a combination of credentialed and non-credentialed people in various seasons of life but dedicated to the mission of sharing their skill and wisdom to the next generation.

Where God leads, He also provides!

08 Address Legal Issues

Starting a school obviously raises legal realities. The following are the most common and for which competent legal representation is essential.

✓ **INCORPORATION.** POK assumes that most church private schools will be nonprofit and will therefore want to file for 501(c)(3) status as a tax-exempt organization from the IRS. It may also be advisable that the

school operate under a separate legal entity than the church. This process can take many months, so it is advisable to start the process as soon as practicable. For more information, visit the National Council of Nonprofits.[23]

As with any nonprofit corporation it will be necessary to establish an official school name and governing Board. POK recommends beginning with a small Board to accommodate efficiency—3 members. Additional members can be added later as needed.

✓ **STATE REGULATIONS.** Unless you plan on seeking federal funding or grants you probably don't need to worry about federal private school regulations. State regulations, however, do need to be carefully considered. As mentioned, California requires an annual filing of the Private School Affidavit (PSA). Beyond that, as stated by the California Department of Education, *"The CDE has no statutory (authority) to regulate or monitor private schools or private education...."*[24] This also means that private school teachers need not possess a valid California teaching credential.[25]

For more information relevant to California private schools visit, "Private Schools Frequently Asked Questions."[26] Another excellent source of information can be found at the U.S. Department of Education.[27] For other states, a helpful site is the Twine Connection Tool for School,[28] which has a state-by-state guide. Refer also to the U.S. Department of Education's "State Regulation of Private Schools."[29]

✓ **CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS (CUP).** A CUP is granted by local municipalities for special uses of land and property, such as a church that intends to use its facilities for a school. There is an application process and, depending on local laws, a public hearing may be held by a zoning board or planning commission. The CUP will stipulate the conditions, if any, for the requested use of the property. Since the application process and approval can take several months, the Team should plan accordingly. More information about the CUP process can be found at: ConditionalUsePermits.com.

✓ **EMPLOYMENT LAW.** Hiring creates a contractual relationship between employee and employer that carry both state and federal legal requirements. State regulations vary, but most federal requirements are outlined under

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[23] https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/how-start-nonprofit
[24] https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/psfaq.asp#a11
[25] Id.
[26] https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ps/psfaq.asp#C
[27] https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/non-public-education/regulation-map/california.html
[28] https://choosetwine.com/starting-a-private-school/legal-operating-requirements/
[29] https://www2.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/regprivschl/regprivschl.pdf

Title VII of the civil rights code. There are also legal requirements with respect to exempt (salaried) and non-exempt (hourly) employees. These are covered under the Fair Labor Standards Act.[30] Most staffed churches will already be familiar with these laws.

✓ **INSURANCE.** A standing church will already have insurance policies covering its various ministry operations. Additional policies, or riders, may be needed for a church school. Requirements vary by state, but insurance coverage will likely be needed for the following:

- **Property:** Churches will already have property insurance to indemnify against losses related to the church buildings and grounds. These losses can come as the result of natural disasters or human caused. An additional rider may be needed to cover any anticipated losses attributable to school related activities.
- **General Liability:** This insurance is intended to cover liability that may occur from claims filed by third parties against the school for personal injury suffered on church facilities.
- **Workers Compensation:** This type of insurance is required to cover medical expenses and lost wages related to employee work-related accidents or injuries.
- **Professional/Educators Liability:** This type of insurance protects school administrators and staff against legal complaints alleging wrongdoing. Policies are designed to cover legal defense and any settlement fees.
- **Auto:** If the school has vehicles that it intends to operate to transport staff or students, then it will need a policy to cover liability.

[30] https://hr.nih.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/benefits/pay/title-5-pay/pdf/flsafactsheet.pdf

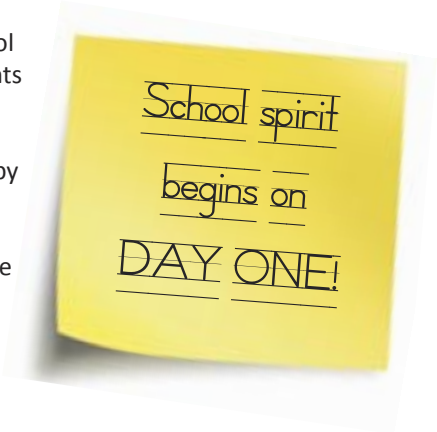
✓ **HEALTH & SAFETY.** A church that accommodates a Nursery or Sunday School activities will already be familiar with relevant health and safety codes. Depending on what state you live in there may be additional requirements for schools that the Team will need to be aware of. Common requirements include:

- Immunizations and records
- Tuberculosis and other communicable disease testing for school employees
- Fire Marshall inspections
- DOJ criminal background checks

For more information on specific state health and safety regulations, visit the U.S. Department of Education's "State Regulation of Private Schools."[31]

9 Develop a Promotions/Marketing Plan

Unless there's a built-in student body the school will want to market itself to prospective students and to attract donors. The school will want to develop its own unique brand, artwork, and promotional materials. The Team may benefit by hiring an outside firm to help with this.



Opening day should be a festive occasion where local dignitaries and special guests are invited. School spirit should begin on day one!

10 Seek Accreditation

Having the distinction of being an "accredited" school brings several benefits:

- Provides accountability and internal confidence,
- Signals the existence of a "real school,"
- Enables transfer of credits to other institutions.

While not necessary or even advised in the school's early stages (1-2 years), POK does recommend that the school plan to become accredited. The extent of

[31] https://www2.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/regprivschl/regprivschl.pdf

the accrediting process will depend on the school's academic goals. For example, does the school intend to make its class units be transferrable to other schools? This will affect the accrediting process. Does it intend to ready its pupils for college? If so, the school will have to meet what are known as **A-G** academic course requirements and additional requirements for accrediting.

Regardless, the accrediting process will involve an application with one or more accrediting agencies, onsite visits, reporting and periodic audits. Other requirements are sensible and include having suitable and safe facilities, a minimum number of students, teaching multiple grade levels, having well-documented teaching plans and a qualified staff. A summary list of requirements from the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) can be found here: ACS WASC Conditions of Eligibility.[32] For Christ-centered private schools, two well regarded accrediting agencies are the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)[33] and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges(WASC).[34] Another helpful organization is Cognia, which in addition to accrediting services provides consulting to help schools achieve their goals. A list of other various state and regional accrediting agencies can be found here.[35]

POK recommends seeking accreditation in years 2-3 of the school's operation.

Now's Your Time to Start a Private School

[32] https://acswasc.app.box.com/s/vi3y8wpw1u7jh5ov5xvwil9nyjhmpajy
[33] https://www.acsi.org
[34] https://www.acswasc.org
[35] https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2016/sevisAccreditingAgencyList.pdf

the CALLING...

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ***You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.***"

(Deut. 6:4-7)

In whatever culture the Church finds itself the calling to preserve righteousness and proclaim truth remains; in other words, to be *salt* and *light*.[36] From Moses to the present the duty of God's people to its children is to develop in them a love for God, reverence for His truth, obedience to His commandments, and to put Him first in everything. America understood this charge during its formative years and produced the freest and most prosperous nation on earth. But those days are past. The nation's children today spend their most productive hours in state-run public schools actively working to undermine and corrupt God's truth. Deliverance from this corrosive environment will only come through private schools and homeschooling led mainly by the Church and its leaders.

Will you heed the call?

PROTECT OUR KIDS

www.ProtectOurKidsNow.org

[36] Matthew 5:13-16