

WELS COMMISSION ON LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Fall 2019



The Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) exists to guide and assist WELS congregations in advancing the gospel of Jesus by providing resources, training, and personal assistance for starting and strengthening Lutheran schools.

MY WELS CLOUD

VERIFY YOUR USER NAME

To verify your user name visit yearbook.wels.net, search for yourself, open your information card, and click on your name in the gray header at the top. A box will show your username.

RESET YOUR PASSWORD

To reset your password go to account.wels.net and select the reset password button. You will need to provide your username (see above). A one-time password will be sent to the e-mail address we have on file for your account. Enter the provided password into the password field on the log-in screen.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

For assistance accessing My WELS Cloud forms, contact the WELS Help Desk Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Central Time at 414-259-4357 or support@wels.net. For other questions, e-mail lutheralschools@wels.net or call 414-259-4354.

Teacher Call Window Change

The volume of teacher calls has risen dramatically over the past two years; 80 teacher vacancies remained after assignment day and 19 schools have an interim principal or principal vacancy. Due to this teacher shortage, the WELS Conference of Presidents has adjusted the teacher call window on a trial basis for the next two school years. The new window for calling active teachers from the field to begin serving in a new location for the 2020-21 school year begins on October 15, 2019, and runs through April 15, 2020.

- Teacher call list requests are submitted electronically at wels.net/callrequest
- Request forms must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the requested call meeting date. The call and accompanying documents should be e-mailed to the candidate called within 12 hours of the call meeting.
- The Compensation Calculator is available at cwcompcalc.wels.net

New Sections in Teacher Information & Self-Assessment on My WELS Cloud

Two new sections are now available in called worker profile and self-assessment forms. Under Profile in the "Teacher/ Staff Minister Information" form you may now indicate your ability to consider calls outside of your home area, distance you are willing to commute, and any additional information on relocation limitations. In the self-assessment section, a new tab is available for indicating a summary of your ministry goals as well as your top five "Strengths Finder" strengths.

Called workers can update their personal information any time via the WELS Online Called Worker form at cloud.wels.net/me. Updated information is greatly appreciated by calling bodies when names are submitted to them as they look to issue a call. Please log in, review, and update your information on an annual basis or when information changes.

Stay in Touch

Subscribe to the weekly CLS e-News at wels.net/subscribe.

Submit your news stories to lutheranschools@wels.net to be featured in the CLS e-News.

Administrators are encouraged to join our Google group "adminmail" to ask questions and share information. Send an email to lutheranschools@wels.net to request an invitation.

Check out the Lutheran Schools Resource Center for additional materials: cls.welsrc.net

Send us an e-mail at lutheranschools@wels.net if you need assistance connecting with any of these resources.

School Closings

- Abiding Grace Lutheran Preschool (ECM) *Covington, GA*
- Grace Lutheran School (LES & ECM) *Geneva, NE*
- Heritage Lutheran Preschool (ECM) *Gilbert, AZ*
- Little Lambs Child Development Center (ECM) *Cheyenne, WY*
- Living Word Academy (LES/LHS) *Marble Falls, TX*
- Lord and Savior Lutheran School (LES/ECM) *Crystal Lake, IL*
- Our Savior Lutheran Preschool Academy (ECM) *San Antonio, TX*
- Pilgrim Lutheran School (LES) *Minneapolis, MN*
- St John' Lutheran School (LES/ECM) *Sleepy Eye, MN*
- Trinity Lutheran School (LES) *Bangor, MI*

WELS School Accreditation

The WELSSA program evaluates our Christian school ministries based on Scripture and sound educational principles. The school learns to understand its strengths and weaknesses by working through a self-study using the WELSSA handbook set of standards. Among the many benefits of becoming an accredited school is appreciating the many blessings our gracious God provides and identifying ways in which the school can better serve its students and surrounding community.

Gaining WELSSA accreditation also earns you accreditation recognition with the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPA).

Congratulations to first-time accredited schools:

- Riverview, Appleton, WI
- Bethany, Hustisford, WI
- St. Paul's, Ixonia, WI
- Risen Savior, Mankato, MN
- St. Peter, Schofield, WI
- Concord Lutheran Academy, Temecula, CA



There are currently 136 WELS schools accredited (120 LES, 15 LHS, 1 stand-alone ECM) in 14 states with over 19,000 students. There are 24 schools currently holding candidacy status that will be hosting a site visit for the first time within the next two years. There are 48 site visits scheduled for the 2019-20 school year and over 30 expected in 2020-21. More than 250 experienced educators from schools around the country will volunteer to serve WELSSA as a consultant, site team captain or team member this year. The WELSSA program is thankful for their service.

If you are interested in serving on a site visit team, learning more about accreditation for your school, joining the WELSSA email group, or using the WELSSA logo for your website, email our office at welssa@wels.net.

Education, Technology, and Leadership Summit Success

Over 400 educators, principals, pastors, and lay leaders assembled for the first WELS Education, Technology, and Leadership Summit held June 25-27, 2019, at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI. Visit welsedtechlead.com for photos, highlights, and presentation resources from the event. Plans are being made for the next event to take place in summer 2022.

Did you know?

- WELS schools serve nearly 42,000 students.
- Last year WELS schools hosted 494 international students.
- Almost a third (28%) of Early Childhood families enrolled have no Christian church affiliation. What a mission field!

Congregational Services Resources

Welcome Home

Who do you know? Who's not here? Think back to former students and families. Who haven't you seen in a while? Teachers have a unique relationship with students while they are in the classroom. Where are they now? The Welcome Home initiative has a series of resources for teachers including devotions and simple ways to reach out and reconnect those who are straying with the Means of Grace. Resources are available at welscongregationalervices.net/welcome-home.

C:19

C:19 is an effort to invite more than one million people to worship at WELS congregations this Christmas. C19 is similar to last year's C18 program providing all the resources a congregation needs to make a major outreach effort. You can access all of the C19 materials at welscongregationalervices.net/c19

WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership

The National Conference on Lutheran Leadership, January 21-23, 2020, at Grand Sheraton, Chicago, IL, seeks to encourage congregational members and leaders. Plenary sessions will discuss larger strategic issues with breakout sessions to share "best practices" for addressing specific challenges. The conference will also provide the opportunity to network with leaders from other congregations for encouragement, sharing wisdom, and Christian fellowship. Learn more at lutheranleadership.com.

MissionInsite Demographics

MissionInsite allows any WELS congregation or entity to run as many demographic reports as they want for free. This demographics tool can help your school as you look to reach out in your community.

Telling the Next Generation: Utilizing Our Schools for Outreach

Telling the Next Generation: Utilizing Our Schools for Outreach workshop, focuses on developing and implementing a written harvest strategy. Included breakout sessions encourage congregational teams to work together on applying the concepts and strategies shared. Advisors are assigned to follow-up and encourage. For more information, contact lutheranschools@wels.net or evangelism@wels.net.

Save the Date: WELS International Youth Rally

The WELS International Youth Rally will be held June 23-26, 2020, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. Learn more at wels.net/event/2020-wels-international-youth-rally.



Congregational Services

WELS Congregational Services exists to encourage and equip congregations for faithful and fruitful gospel ministry. The Commission on Lutheran Schools is one of the commissions to provide support to congregations. Other commissions include: Special Ministries, Worship, Congregational Counseling, Evangelism, and Discipleship.

Learn more about these and other resources at welscongregationalervices.net

Programs to Grow New School Leaders

Principal and Director Apprentice Mentoring continues with all young men and women assigned to schools to serve as principals or directors. Each receive guidance from a mentor who provides on the job instruction in administration while mentoring the teacher during his or her first two years.

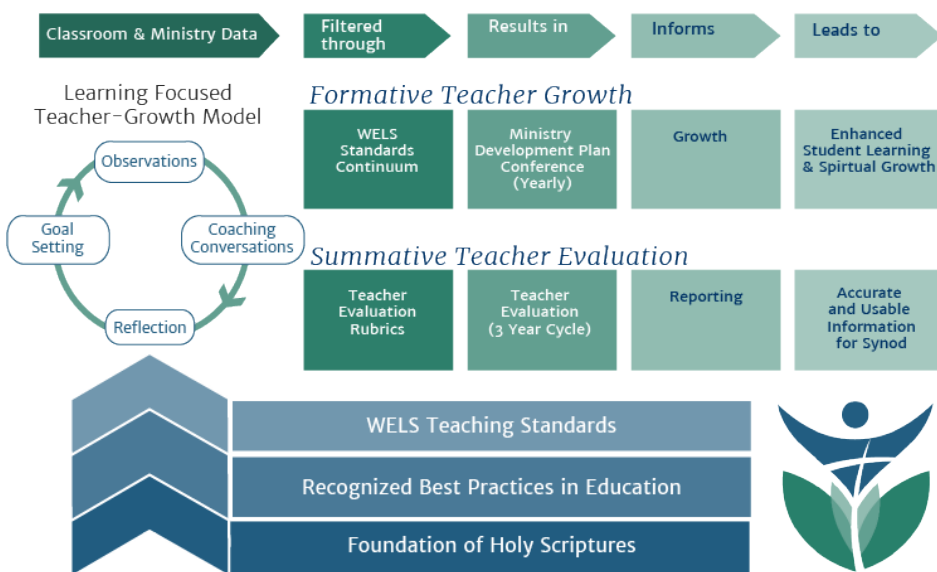
Principal Training Program is designed to allow a newly assigned teacher to receive instructional teacher mentoring and developmental principal coaching during his first three years of teaching from a veteran host mentor principal. 2020 program participants will be assigned permanently and available to consider greater leadership calls from the field in their third year of service.

Leadership Candidate Training for principals is now in the third year of the three year 21st Century Principal Initiative. Six men are currently in their first year of the program which includes a three credit Master's course from MLC.

The Emerging Leader Cohort for early childhood directors is seeking candidate nominations for the 2020-21 cohort. This cohort provides opportunities for those either not currently serving as an early childhood director or new to the director role with professional development and training. For more information, contact cindi.holman@wels.net.

To nominate a teacher for either Leadership Candidate Training or Emerging Leader Cohort programs visit cls.welsrc.net and click on the nominate a leadership training candidate link.

Ministerial Growth & Evaluation Process



We are thrilled by the great number of module offerings that have been scheduled in the districts over the past year to instruct WELS leaders and teachers in the components of the new WELS Ministerial Growth and Evaluation Process. It is our hope that all WELS teachers have opportunity to attend the modules between now and late fall of 2020.

The new process has a much stronger focus on continuous teacher growth and coaching using the Learning Focused Observation Model. The new summative process will become available in the spring of 2020 to schools who have attended all the modules and implemented the process. It is hoped that all are implementing the process by the summer of 2021.

Contact us

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