

CHRISTIAN *School* COMMENT

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

Volume 39, Number 3

YOUR
COMMENT,
PLEASE

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 11.7 percent of the nation's children enrolled in schools are enrolled in private schools. So more than 6.5 million students in kindergarten through grade 12 are attending non-government-funded schools across the nation (www.capenet.org/facts.html). About 10 percent of that number are enrolled in Christian schools that are members of the Association of Christian Schools International.

Your school is a member of this association and is committed to providing the very best Christian school education for your students. We recognize your great commitment and the significant sacrifice that many of you make to pay for a distinctively different kind of education.

According to the latest data available from NCES, the average per-pupil cost of education in America in 2003–2004 was \$8,310 (http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/expenditures/tables/table_3.asp). If we were to assume an annual increase of 5 percent, the average per-pupil cost for this past school year would have been \$9,619 in U.S. government schools. A quick math exercise would then tell us that the 650,000 or so students who attend ACSI member schools, such as your Christian school, provided to America's taxpayers a savings of more than \$6 billion this past school year—and the savings has continued to increase yearly. As one of the hundreds of thousands of Christian school families, you have helped create this savings for the nation because of the considerable investment that you are making to send your children to a Christian school.

Each month, ACSI provides *Christian School Comment* to ACSI member schools as a publication they can make available to their school families. For the first time, we are requesting comment back from you—the families who have made the Christian school choice. Because we are continually striving to be a productive resource and support for our member schools, we have developed a Web-based survey in an attempt to discover your perspective regarding your Christian school experience.

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We are asking you as a Christian school family who has students in one of our member schools to talk to us via the Web-based survey. We would like your opinion about your Christian school experience. This survey should take you less than five minutes to complete. Your input, which will remain completely confidential, will become a very important component in the collection of responses that Zoomerang, a third-party provider, gathers. **You can access the survey throughout November 2007.**

When you have accessed the Internet through a Web browser, please enter the following Web address: <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB226Z6H8W5X5>. If you are receiving this *Christian School Comment* electronically from your school, you can simply click on this address or you can copy and paste the link into your Web browser. Thank you in advance for providing us with valuable feedback on your family's experience in Christian schooling.



Ken Smitherman, President
Association of Christian Schools International

We welcome you to download *Christian School Comment* and print it for distribution to your school's constituency. You are also granted permission to place this publication on your school's website. ACSI must grant permission for other forms of distribution.