

Why should my school become a member of WFIS?

- Our goal is to keep your independent school independent. Through membership, your voice becomes a part of the process.
- **WFIS advocates on behalf of ALL private schools—in the State Legislature, at OSPI and on the State Board of Education—not to mention the U. S. Department of Education, in order to assure that you are receiving all resources that are available to you.**
- We have an 18-member board of directors to assure the greatest representation of all schools. Your representation on that board is through your elected representative. By becoming a member, your school's vote is included in electing that representative.
- **Employee benefits – association plan through Educator Resources**
- We are constantly monitoring legislation - actively involved in policy issues
- **Scholarships and grant information for students is distributed only to member schools**
- WFIS is the appointing agency for all college and university private school representatives to Private Educator Advisory Boards. All appointees must be from WFIS member schools.
- **WFIS is the recommending agency to the State for private school representatives to the Private School Advisory Committee to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.**
- The State Board of Education looks to WFIS for recommendations for private school representative nominations.
- **WFIS makes recommendations to the Governor's Office for private school appointments to the Professional Educator's Standards Board.**
- WFIS leadership assisted in restructuring Private School Advisory Committee to include broad representation of private school community (PSAC) to work with OSPI.
- **WFIS was responsible for changing private school teacher certification requirements to reflect missions of diverse private schools. (2004)**
- WFIS worked with the PSAC to gain approval by SBE of accreditation recognition to include SBE approved private school accrediting agencies. (2005)
- **WFIS secured the position of a private schools' representative with full voting privileges to the newly restructured State Board of Education. (2005)**
- WFIS secured private school representation on the newly-created Early Learning Commission. (2007)
- **Through the lobbying efforts of WFIS, private schools are excluded from the mandatory sex education bill as well as the HPV mandate for public schools.**

Washington Federation of Independent Schools

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