

Floor Committee 14: Congregation and Ministry Support Group 3

Subject: Commission on Lutheran Schools

Reference: *Book of Reports and Memorials*, p. 66

Report No. 01

We are thankful for the multi-faceted work of the Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) as they support the 392 early childhood ministries, 301 Lutheran elementary schools, and 25 area Lutheran high schools touching 41,000 hearts with the gospel through Christian education.

We commend the 119 schools that have been accredited through WELS School Accreditation (WELSSA) and encourage all of our WELS schools to seek accreditation.

We are thankful for the training of 50 consultants throughout the country to support and assist congregations.

We applaud the collaboration between the Commission on Evangelism and Commission on Lutheran Schools who jointly offer a new one-day school of outreach seminar for interested ministry teams.

We recognize the challenge of preparing willing and able school leaders for service in our WELS schools and encourage the continued growth of the following programs:

- Principal Apprentice and Director Apprentice Mentoring
- Principal Training Program
- Leadership Candidate Training
- Lutheran Principal Initiative

We rejoice in the continued progress of the Early Childhood Ministries Task Force in their work to train and support our many early childhood ministries in our synod. We encourage this group to continue in their work and are thankful for their efforts in making the following available throughout the synod:

- Tools to support congregations in understanding mission, vision, and objectives of WELS Early Childhood Ministries
- Initiatives to train and support early childhood directors
- Building Blocks: A Handbook for Beginning and Operating a Christian Early Childhood Ministry
- Characteristics of High Quality, Mission-Focused Early Childhood Ministries Document
- Ten Essential Questions When Considering an Early Childhood Ministry Checklist

- Outreach Strategies for Early Childhood Ministry and Positioning Schools for Outreach.

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