

GOLDEN STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

ALL FOR ONE

Nathan Mestler

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Note from the President	3
Note from the Executive Director	4
Convention Schedule	5
Exhibitors	9
Facility Map	12–13
Keynote & Workshop Speakers	14–15
Our Sponsors	19
Thursday Workshop Options	20–21
Friday Workshop Options	25
AACS & GSACS Test Scores	38–40

ADVERTISERS

AACS	8
Abeka	2
BeneFAQ	10, 24
BJU Press	31
BJU Scope	cover
Christian School Developement	346
Faith Baptist Bible College	30
Fortify Foundations	35
Foundations Baptist Fellowship International	6
Herzog Foundation	7
International Bible College & Seminary	37
Legacy Trade College	23
Maranatha Baptist University	17
Palmetto Fortis	41
TrekAi	16
Tuttle Twins	18
Veritas Baptist College	cover

ABOUT GSACS

A community of Christian schools dedicated to gospel-centered education and training.

A group of leaders committed to serving and encouraging teachers and mentors.

A fellowship of teachers called to eternally mold the lives of their students.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GSACS

Dear GSACS Family,

I am thankful for how God continues to use GSACS to help serve and advance your ministries. It is a privilege to come alongside you as you disciple the next generation of Christ followers.

Our theme this year is “All for One,” drawn from Philippians 1:20–21. I invite you to pause and reflect on the personal sacrifices you make to invest in Christian education—your time, finances, energy, and very self. These sacrifices are worth it because of Whom we serve: not merely the student, but the Creator of the student! Our entire life’s aim should be to magnify Christ with our whole being. Keep pressing on boldly in your service to the King.

One of this year’s greatest blessings for our schools has been the NEXGEN scholarship. It has been amazing to see God provide for so many through the generous giving of one donor. As of this writing, over 70 children will be attending our schools because of this scholarship. Let’s give God glory for providing so abundantly for GSACS schools. This year, we will be returning over three times our annual operating budget to our member schools! God is good!

Perhaps you know someone who might be interested in investing in Christian education, as our current donor has been. I would be glad to help facilitate such an investment—enabling successful professionals to impact Christian education in a similarly meaningful way.

I look forward to connecting with many of you over the next few days and hearing stories of our amazing God at work in your ministries!

Serving Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Brock", written in a cursive style.

David Brock, D. Min.
GSACS President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GSACS

Dear Educators,

I've been looking forward to welcoming you all, so thank you for making the effort to join us at this year's convention. The word convention means "a large meeting of people who share the same work or interests"—a gathering where we assemble around what we hold in common. In other words, you're my kind of people, and I'm truly glad you're here.

We have so much in common:

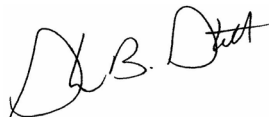
- a love for children and their future,
- a desire to teach in ways that reach beyond the head to the heart,
- a love for learning and growing in our own lives,
- a calling that enriches us in heaven and here on earth, and
- a relationship with God that makes us brothers and sisters in Christ.

What a gathering this is! Please delight in our time together as we share what unites us.

We've packed the next 36 hours with many opportunities—please study the schedule and enjoy the variety of activities and workshops, the faithful preaching of God's Word, the wonderful food and banquet, the entertainment hour with skits, the resources offered by our exhibitors, and free snacks and drinks on Thursday. Our hope is that your body, mind, and spirit will be renewed as you head home to continue the work God has called you to do.

These convention moments are our way of saying thank you for all you do for God's children and for sharing His gospel for His glory. Everything we do is for the One we serve.

All for Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.B. Steuerwald".

Shannon B. Steuerwald
Executive Director

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

- 4:00 PM Early Arrival Registration
- 6:00 PM Early Arrival Dinner (*pre-registered only*)
- 7:00 PM General Arrival & Registration (no dinner provided)
Stores Open/Game Room
- 8:15 PM **Evening Activities Open**
Coffee Shop/Laser Tag/Fire Pit/9-Square
- 8:30 PM Members' Meeting in Rusty Wheel (*minimum one representative from each school*)
- 10:00 PM Stores Close (*game room available for extended play*)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

- 7:45 AM Breakfast—*buffet closes at 8:45am*
- 8:45 AM **Opening Session**—MEETING HALL
- 10:15 AM **Workshops 1** (*rides available 15 minutes prior to start*)
- 11:30 AM **Workshops 2** (*rides available 15 minutes prior to start*)
- 12:15 PM Lunch—*buffet closes at 1:15pm*
- 1:30 PM Stores Open/Afternoon Activities (*until 4:00PM*)
Canoes/Kayaks/Paddle boards, Arena Antics, Jeep Tours, Crafts, Rifle Range, Escape Rooms, Old West Photos, Archery & Hatchets, Pickleball, Basketball, or meet with any of our sponsors
- 1:45 PM **Bonus Workshops in Rivertown**
- 4:15 PM **General Session**—MEETING HALL
- 5:45 PM **Banquet**—*meet on the Homestead porch*
- 7:15 PM School Huddles—*optional school debrief opportunity*
- 7:45 PM **Evening Activities & Stores Open**
- 8:15 PM Hayrides & Stargazing
- 9:15 PM Skit and Comedy Hour
Stores Close (game room available for extended play)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

- 7:45 AM Breakfast—*buffet closes at 8:45am*
- 8:45 AM **Workshops 3** (*rides available 15 minutes prior to start*)
- 10:00 AM **Closing Session**—MEETING HALL
- 11:00 AM Stores Open
- 11:30 AM Departure



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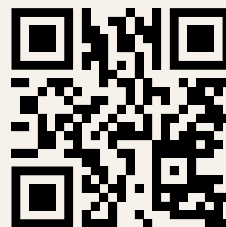
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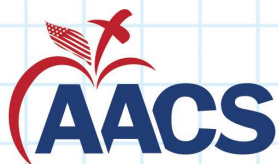


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- Textbook & Supply Discounts
- Capitol Comments
- Legal Report
- National Legislative Conference

TEACHERS

- Journal for Christian Educators
- Professional Development Training
- RightPath Retirement Plan
- Teacher Certification
- Teacher Placement Service

STUDENTS

- National Competition
- Youth Legislative Training Conference
- American Christian Honor Society
- Legislative Internship Program

American Association of Christian Schools

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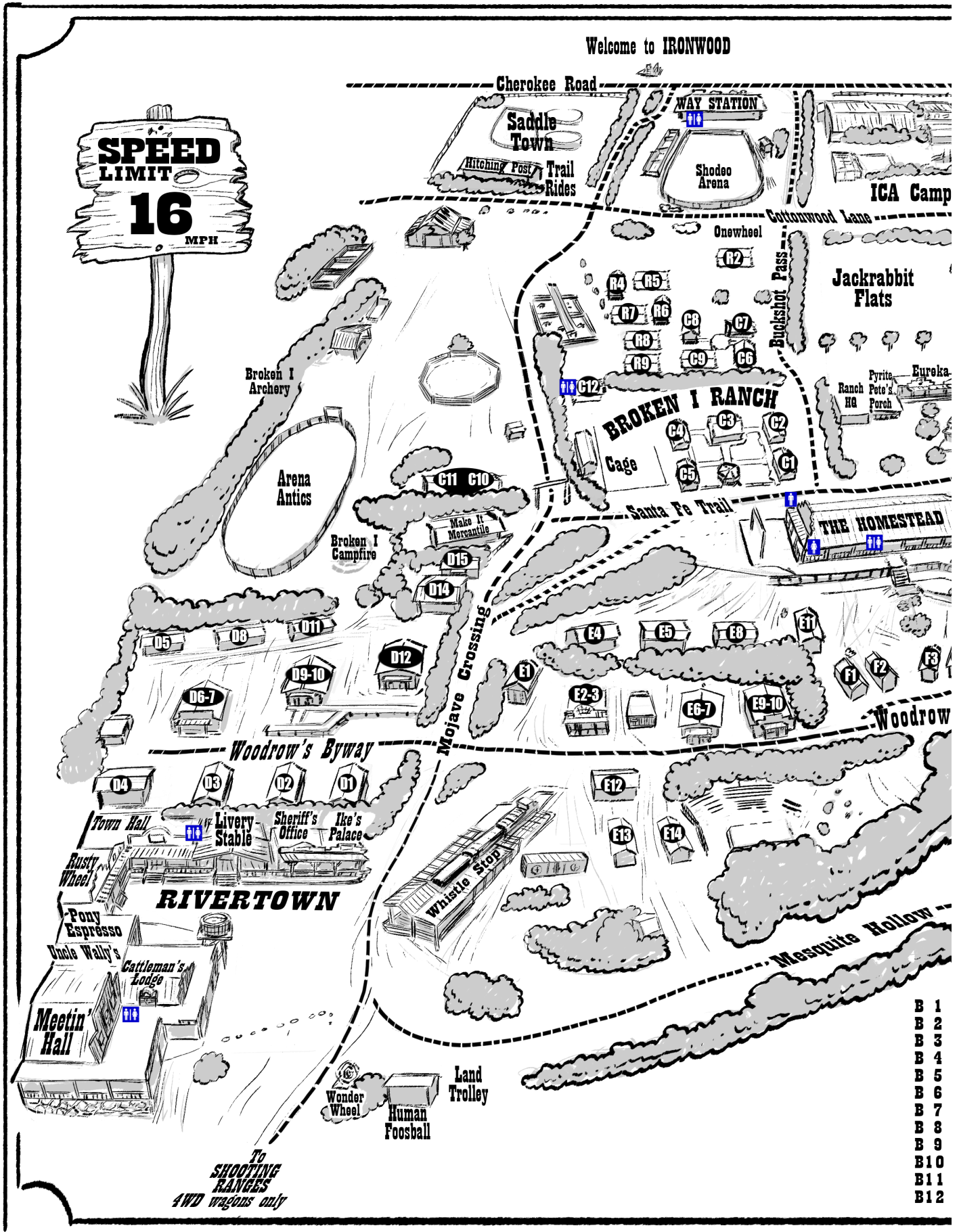
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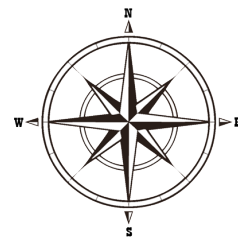
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FACILITY MAP





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Box C
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Rafter S
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Circle M
LVB Connected
Double Half Circle V

C 1 Arrowhead
C 2 Hondo
C 3 Moonlight
C 4 Poco Bell
C 5 Sidewalker
C 6 Nebo Star
C 7 Skippen Baca
C 8 Runnin Iron
C 9 Smokin Iron
C10 Thunder
C11 Lightning
C12 Del Roble

D 1 Wichita
D 2 White Horse
D 3 Cimarron
D 4 Chinook
D 5 Ketchikan
D 6 Abilene
D 7 Alamosa
D 8 Kodiak
D 9 Carson
D10 Comstock
D11 Yukon
D12 Dakota
D14 Dallas
D15 Fort Worth

E 1 Big Jake's Hotel
E 2 Laramie
E 3 Laredo
E 4 Grizzly Flats
E 5 Gunnison
E 6 Santa Fe
E 7 Silverado
E 8 Little Creek
E 9 Tombstone
E10 Tucson
E11 Lone Pine
E12 Rawhide
E13 Black Hawk
E14 Boot Hill

F 1 Cholla
F 2 Cottonwood
F 3 Creosote
F 4 Guyata
F 5 Palo Verde
F 6 Philaree
F 7 Sage
F 8 Tamarisk
F 9 Willow

R 1
R 2 Diamond
R 3
R 4 Iron Pyrite
R 5 Jasper
R 6 Marble
R 7 Nickel
R 8 Onyx
R 9 Quartz

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



NATHAN MESTLER grew up in ministry: first as pastor's son in Bernalillo, New Mexico, and then in Nairobi, Kenya, where his family were missionaries. At age 16, Nathan dedicated his life to full-time Christian ministry. He received a B.A. in Bible and Christian Service in 2003 from International Baptist College and Seminary then in Tempe, Arizona, and later an M.Div. from Calvary Baptist Theological Seminary in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, in 2009.

In 2009, Pastor Nathan and his family returned to Arizona, where he began to work on the staff at IBCS. He has served as the Dean of Students at IBCS and as the youth pastor and later college pastor at Tri-City Baptist Church.

He was installed as the president and CEO of IBCS in the spring of 2020 and continues to teach Bible and Biblical languages in both the undergraduate and graduate programs at IBCS. Pastor Nathan also currently serves as the Wing Chaplain of the 162nd Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard, Tucson, Arizona.

Pastor Nathan's favorite quote is, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." Nathan loves to preach and teach the Word of God especially to young people.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

THOMAS GRAHAM

Dr. Thomas Graham brings thirty-two years of experience as a pastor, teacher, and administrator in both church and educational ministries. He previously served as President of the Missouri Association of Christian Schools and Executive Director of the Mid-America Association of Christian Schools. Dr. Graham currently holds the role of Vice President for Academic Affairs at Maranatha Baptist University in Watertown, Wisconsin.

ED FRANCIS

Ed Francis, education director and RightPath coordinator at AACCS, holds a Bachelor of Arts from Northland International University, a Master of Divinity from Calvary Baptist Theological Seminary, a Master of Science in educational leadership from Bob Jones University, and two certificates in educational and occupational guidance consulting. His experience in Christian education includes roles as a school administrator, state association board member, teacher, and guidance counselor. He has also served in local church ministry as a church planter, Sunday school teacher, deacon, and assistant pastor.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

PAM FRANCIS

Pam Francis, a member of the AACCS team, holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and has years of experience teaching in Christian elementary schools. She loves teaching, supporting fellow educators, and helping students develop a passion for learning.

MEGAN RUSSELL

Mrs. Megan Russell holds a B.S. in Educational Studies (English Education emphasis) and a M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning from Maranatha Baptist University. After beginning her career in three years of curriculum development, she taught fifth grade for four years. She currently serves as Elementary Principal at Arrowhead Christian Academy, where she fosters a supportive, Christ-centered environment that encourages young students to grow in character, curiosity, and confidence.

DR. REBECCA WEIER

Rebecca holds a B.S. in mathematics education, an M.S. in personnel services, and an EdD in higher education leadership. With over thirty years of teaching experience at both high school and university levels, she now serves as a national consultant for BJU Press.

MARANATHA SWEET

Maranatha Sweet, an Abeka educational consultant, brings a diverse background to supporting Christian schools. After earning her education degree from Pensacola Christian College, she taught multi-grade classrooms for nearly ten years, then completed a master's in Education Administration and taught administratively for ten more. She also operates a professional organizing business, integrating these skills in her consulting work. Outside of her career, she cherishes reading the Bible with her husband Matthew.

BRIAN CARRUTHERS

Brian Carruthers holds a B.S. in Science Education and an M.S. in Educational Administration and Supervision from Bob Jones University, as well as an Ed.D. in School Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. Before joining BJU's faculty, he spent 19 years as a teacher and administrator at Christian schools in Florida and North Carolina. He currently serves as Dean of the School of Education & Human Services at Bob Jones University and is a member of the graduate faculty.

ANN CARRUTHERS

Ann Carruthers holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Education in Teaching & Learning from Bob Jones University. She has taught both elementary students and high school Spanish in Christian schools in Florida and North Carolina. Currently, she teaches elementary Spanish (K4–5th grade) at First Presbyterian Academy and Spanish (K3–K5) at Calvary Preschool in South Carolina. She also contributed as an author to *Pasaporte al español*, the elementary Spanish curriculum published by Bob Jones University Press.

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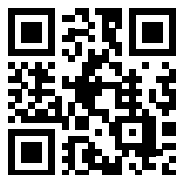
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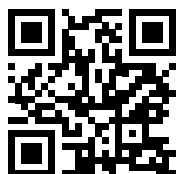
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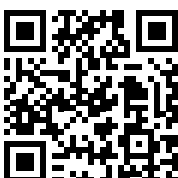
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THURSDAY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WORKSHOP #1 10:15 AM		WORKSHOP #2 11:30 AM	
MEETING HALL	Psalm 119:1-8 Fronting God's Word (General) <i>Pastor Nathan Mestler</i> Explore Psalm 119:1-8 to ensure God's Word shapes your Christian classroom meaningfully, moving beyond 'null theology' in practical ways.	Psalm 119:97-104 God's Word—"More Than" (General) <i>Pastor Nathan Mestler</i> Learn from Psalm 119's Mem section how God's Word shapes both knowledge and affection in Christian education practice.	
RUSTY WHEEL	Developing a Personal Philosophy of Teaching (General) <i>Dr. Brian Carruthers</i> Articulate your biblically grounded teaching philosophy to guide decisions about students, curriculum, and classroom strategies. This workshop helps you begin drafting your personal teaching philosophy—a clear statement of your values and approach to education.	Teaching Your Students To Be Good Stewards of Their Minds (General) <i>Dr. Brian Carruthers</i> Help students develop godly decision-making skills using an Acts 6-based model. This workshop offers practical strategies for guiding them to think well and choose wisely.	
SHERIFF TOM'S	Taming the Tiger (General) <i>Dr. Thomas Graham</i> Tackle classroom management challenges with proven, practical strategies suitable for both beginning and experienced teachers, helping create effective learning environments.	Make Your Secondary World Language Classroom More Exciting (Secondary) <i>Mrs. Ann Carruthers</i> Refresh your language classroom with engaging activities, apps, and ideas that excite students and make learning fun again. Move beyond basic drills to meaningful language practice.	
EUREKA	From Eyerolls to Enthusiasm: Sparking a Love for Reading in Your Classroom (Elementary) <i>Megan Russell</i> Transform reluctant readers into enthusiastic ones with practical classroom strategies. Learn to build anticipation, create engaging routines, and make reading the highlight of your students' day using proven, ready-to-use techniques.	Myth Busters: Achievement Testing (General) <i>Mrs. Pam Francis</i> Turn standardized testing into a valuable tool rather than 'necessary evil.' Learn practical strategies for making testing effective and enjoyable while using results to better meet student needs in elementary classrooms.	

WORKSHOP #1 10:15 AM		WORKSHOP #2 11:30 AM	
RANCH HOUSE	Bridging the Gap (General) <i>Mrs. Maranatha Sweet</i> Bridge learning gaps with proven strategies that help struggling students regain lost ground. Learn time-tested teaching methods to support student growth and find encouragement in guiding them toward success.	Mysterious Word Problems (General) <i>Mrs. Maranatha Sweet</i> Navigate arithmetic word problems with confidence-building strategies. Learn to identify key clues and avoid red herrings [2] while teaching students systematic approaches to mathematical problem solving.	
	5 Learning Strategies for STEM Students (Secondary) <i>Dr. Rebecca Weier</i> Move beyond “study harder” to effective STEM learning strategies. Discover five proven approaches that help struggling high school students succeed in math and science, addressing the gap between effort and achievement.		
	Reimagining School Culture (General) <i>Ed Francis</i> Shape your school culture to actively support your educational mission. This workshop identifies practical elements for building a positive culture through intentional planning.		
THE TWIG	Reimagining School Culture (General) <i>Ed Francis</i> Build effective spiritual development programs that form Christlike character across grade levels. Learn practical strategies for using detentions purposefully, creating supportive environments, fostering peer discipleship, and adapting to developmental needs—supported by school leadership and school culture.	Fearfully & Wonderfully Made (Secondary) <i>Dr. Rebecca Weier</i> Guide high school students toward meaningful vocation by helping them identify their unique gifts and how those gifts can address real-world needs. Designed for faculty and counselors with practical exercises.	
	5 Learning Strategies for STEM Students (Secondary) <i>Dr. Rebecca Weier</i> Move beyond “study harder” to effective STEM learning strategies. Discover five proven approaches that help struggling high school students succeed in math and science, addressing the gap between effort and achievement.		
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FAITH BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP HALL	Reimagining School Culture (General) <i>Ed Francis</i> Build effective spiritual development programs that form Christlike character across grade levels. Learn practical strategies for using detentions purposefully, creating supportive environments, fostering peer discipleship, and adapting to developmental needs—supported by school leadership and school culture.	Fearfully & Wonderfully Made (Secondary) <i>Dr. Rebecca Weier</i> Guide high school students toward meaningful vocation by helping them identify their unique gifts and how those gifts can address real-world needs. Designed for faculty and counselors with practical exercises.	
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BONUS WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WORKSHOP TIMES			
	MEETING HALL	RUSTY WHEEL	SHERIFF TOM'S
1:45PM	Will You Teach Me? <i>Mrs. Brenda Riley</i> Learn unique teaching techniques inspired by the Riley family's story. Meet diverse student needs, foster meaningful connections, and inspire classroom transformation while reigniting your passion for teaching.	Organizing for School <i>Mrs. Maranatha Sweet</i> Decrease stress and increase productivity using Swedish Death Cleaning techniques. Learn professional organizing strategies including meal planning and capsule wardrobe principles tailored for educators and classroom.	Using DataManager™ <i>*Ed Francis</i> Decrease stress and increase productivity using Swedish Death Cleaning techniques. Learn professional organizing strategies including meal planning and capsule wardrobe principles tailored for educators and classrooms.
<i>* Ed, who oversees the achievement testing for AACCS, will be available afterward for IOWA testing and CogAt questions.</i>			
3:00PM	Special Choir Practice for any who want to join. Directed by Dan and Brenda Riley. Performance at the 4:30 general session		
7:45PM	Schedule a demo or meeting with any of our sponsors and exhibitors!		

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FRIDAY WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WORKSHOP #3 8:45 AM	
MEETING HALL	Managing Behavior with Confidence for General and Special Ed Students <i>Dr. Dan & Mrs. Brenda Riley</i> Wiggling, tantrums, outbursts, and other challenging behaviors can occur with any student, but disabilities can add another layer of complexity. Learn how to distinguish between purposeful behavior and behavior related to a student's disability. Dr. and Mrs. Riley will share practical behavior-management strategies, discuss a variety of disabilities, and offer tips for building students' social skills.
RUSTY WHEEL	The Parent Paradox (General) <i>Mrs. Maranatha Sweet</i> If the apparent contradiction of parents' being the authority over their children but not the authority in your classroom creates conflict in your daily life, then you need the tips and strategies in this session. We will work together to discover ways to improve relationships between parents and teachers.
SHERIFF TOM'S	Equipping Teacher for Success: BJU Press Secondary Math Textbooks <i>Dr. Rebecca Weier</i> Discover BJU Press secondary mathematics resources for algebra, geometry, and advanced topics. These textbooks offer biblical integration, clear instruction, conceptual development tools, and practical support for lesson planning, assessment, and differentiation.
EUREKA	Rules of Engagement (Elementary) <i>Pam Francis</i> Overcome the challenge of frequent presentation changes with practical engagement strategies. Learn to identify disengagement clues and apply simple, on-the-fly techniques that quickly re-engage students during lessons.
RANCH HOUSE	Developing Critical Thinking in Students (Elementary & Middle School) <i>Mrs. Ann Carruthers</i> An interactive workshop exploring ways to integrate critical thinking skills in everyday teaching.
THE TWIG	Investing in Your Most Important Resource (Administration) <i>Dr. Brian Carruthers</i> Recruit, develop, and retain exceptional teachers who support your Christian education mission. This interactive workshop explores the essential qualities of outstanding educators and key leadership decisions that foster long-term growth and commitment, strengthening your school's foundation.
FAITH BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP HALL	Assessment Strategies (General) <i>Ed Francis</i> Develop effective K–12 assessment strategies to meet diverse student needs. This interactive workshop explores practical assessment methods, enhances student engagement, and improves learning outcomes—equipping educators with hands-on tools for their classrooms.

NATHAN MESTLER

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GENERAL SESSION TWO

NATHAN MESTLER

[illegible]

NATHAN MESTLER

30

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WORKSHOP NOTES

TITLE _____

SPEAKER _____

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WORKSHOP NOTES

TITLE _____

SPEAKER _____

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WORKSHOP NOTES

TITLE _____

SPEAKER _____

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- **Pre-employment and Staff Assessments**

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- **Accreditation**

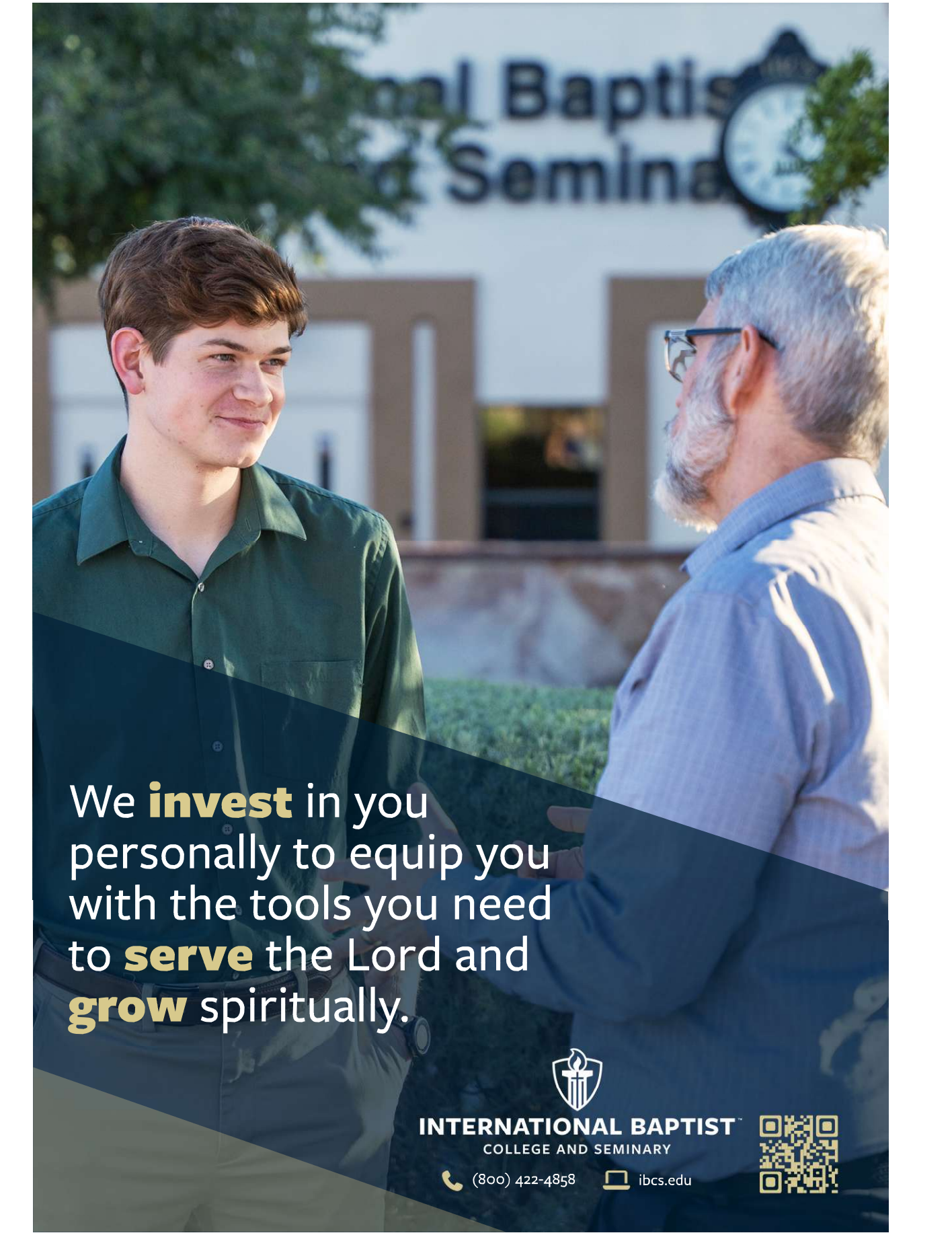
CSD staff combined have served on over 45 accreditation teams with a variety of Christian school organizations. We assist with schools who are seeking accreditation for the first time or have upcoming renewal visits in a lead or supporting role - including developing curriculum guides and other required documents.



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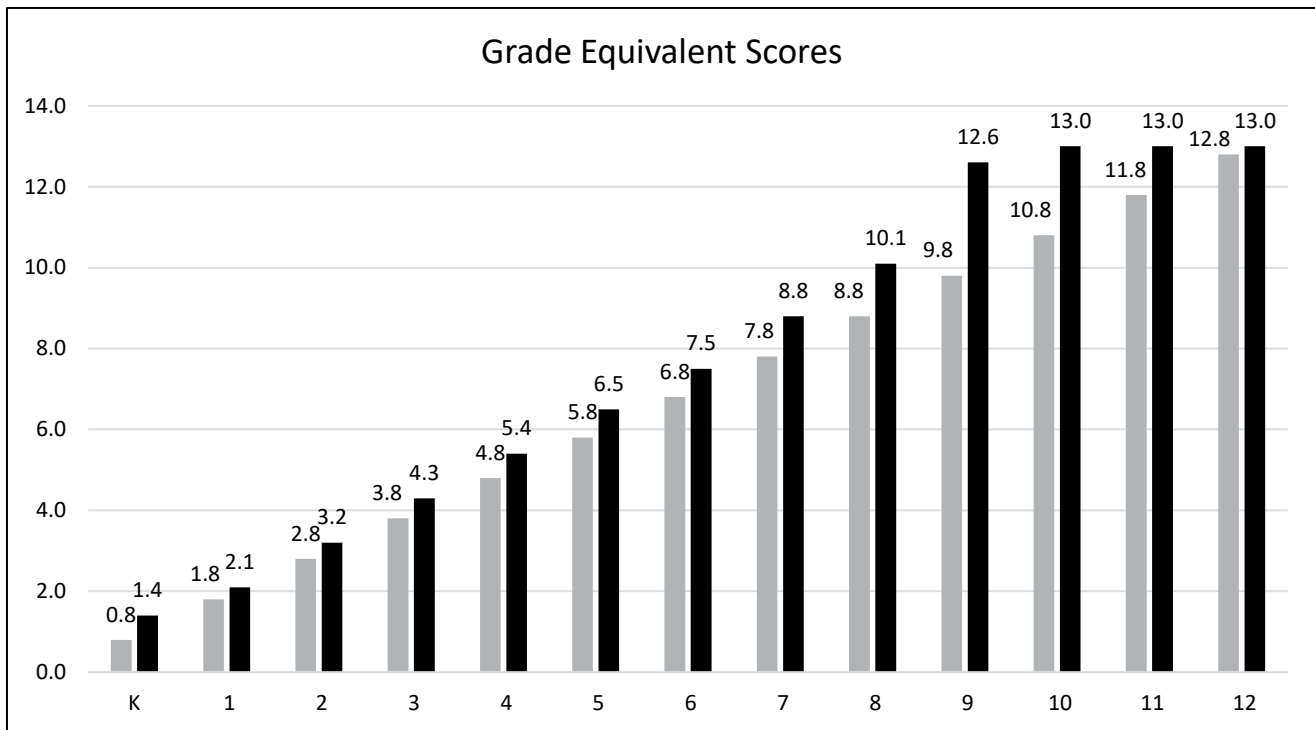
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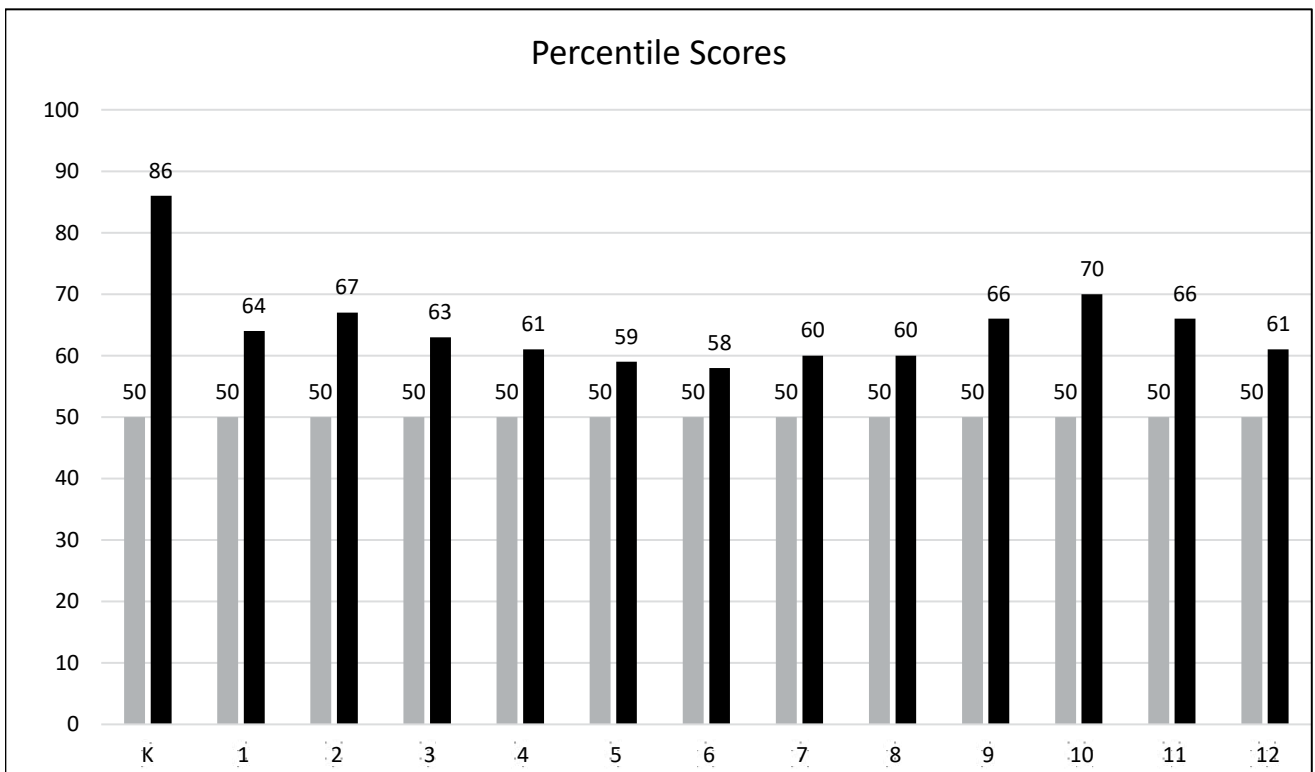
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American Association of Christian Schools
Iowa Assessment Results
2025–2026 School Year

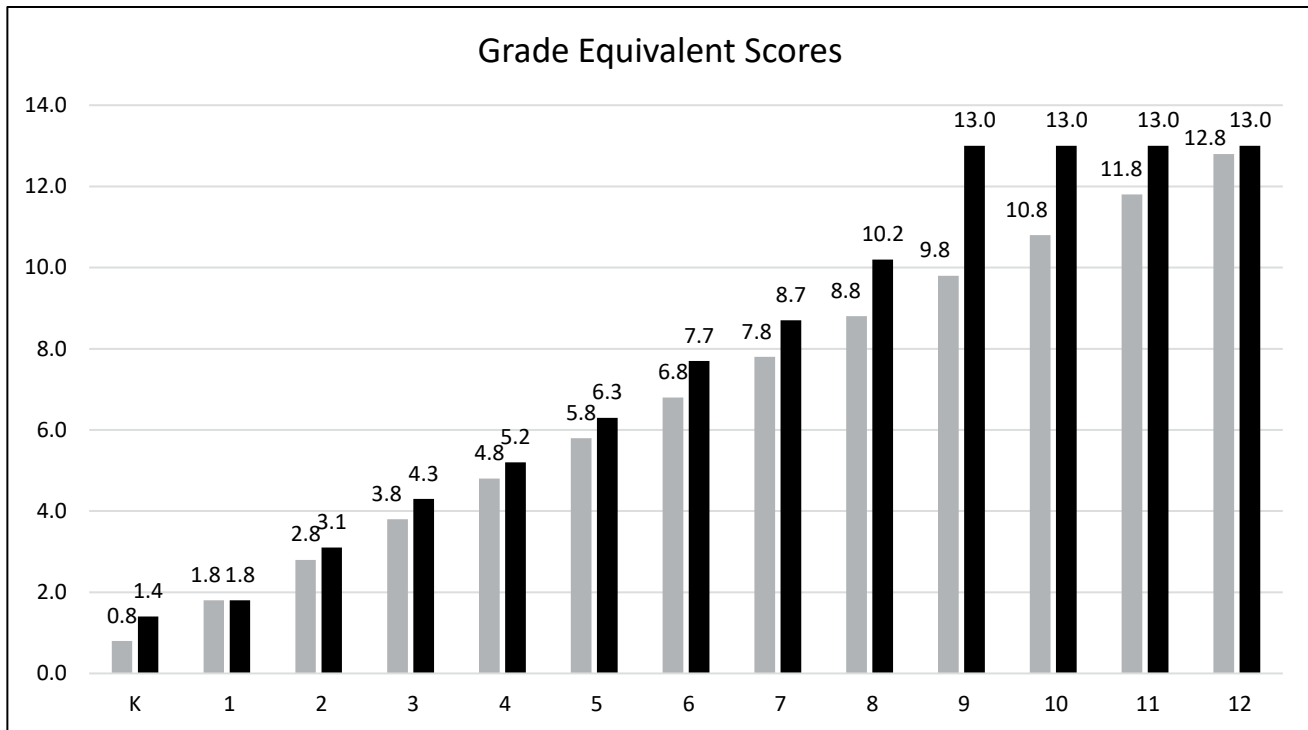


13.0 means these scores are above the measurable capacity of the test

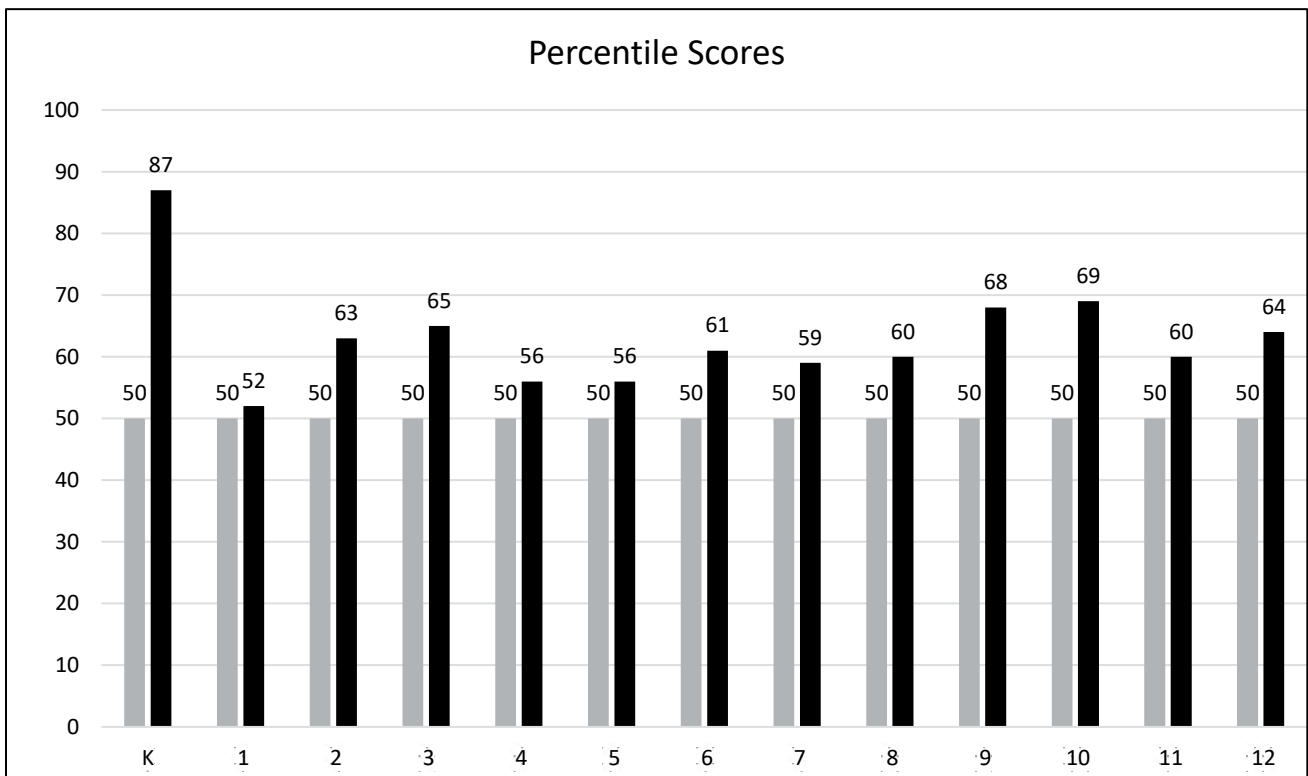


= National Average Grade Equivalent Scores and Percentile Scores (2024 norms)
 = AACS Average Grade Equivalent Scores and Percentile Scores

Golden State Association of Christian Schools
Iowa Assessment Results
2025–2026 School Year



13.0 means these scores are above the measurable capacity of the test

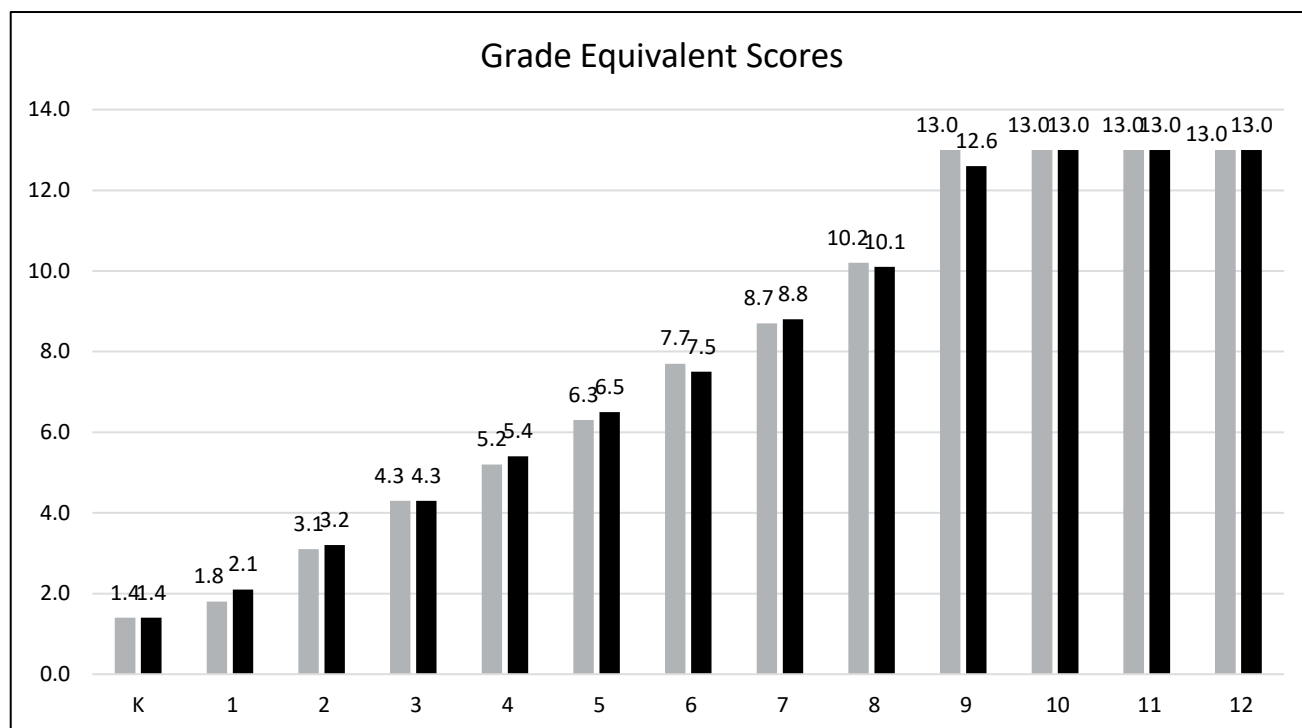


= National Average Grade Equivalent Scores and Percentile Scores (2024 norms)
 = GSACS Average Grade Equivalent Scores and Percentile Scores

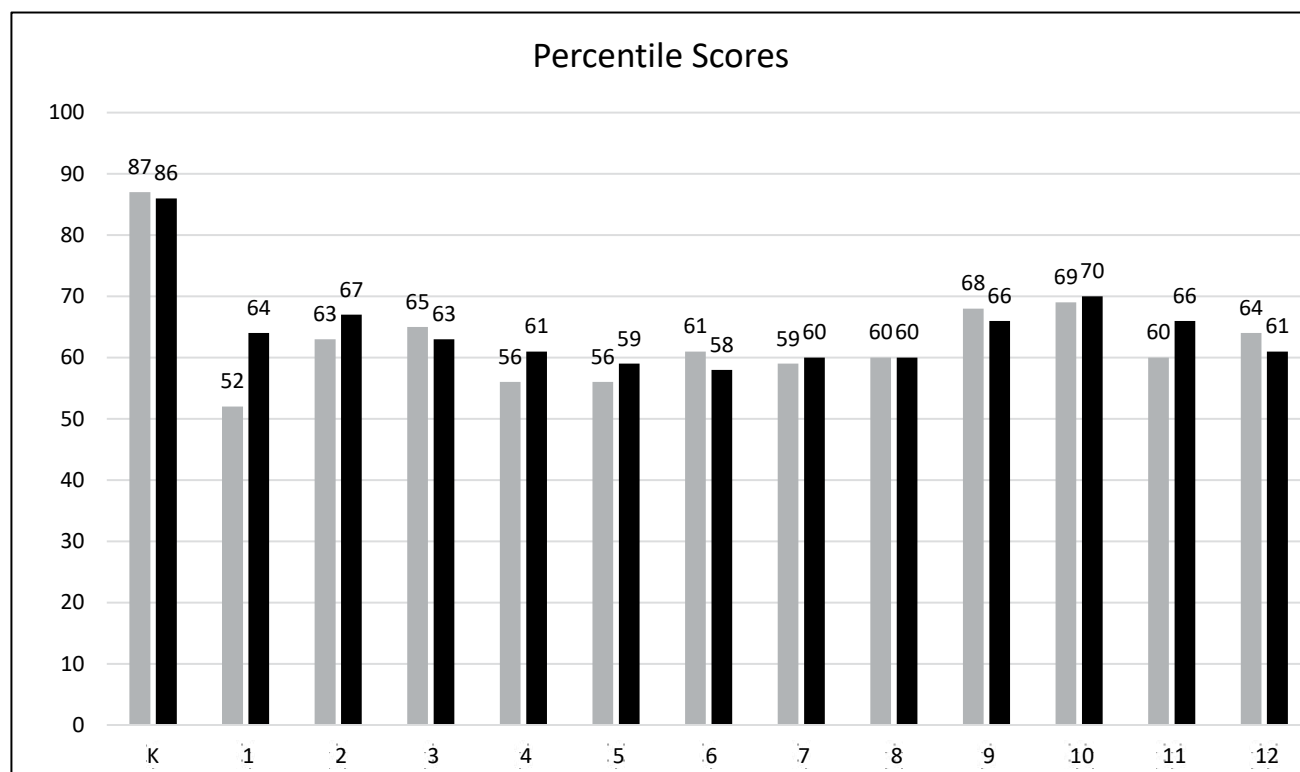
AACS and GSACS Comparison Scores

Iowa Assessment Results

2025–2026 School Year



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WAYS I CAN KEEP LEARNING

Did you make some decisions? Consider some goals? Hear a great idea? We encourage you to summarize the last 24 hours by writing down goals for the coming months.

Some questions to consider are:

- What can I do to keep learning?
- How can I better motivate my students to be learners?
- What tools can I use better?
- What steps should I take now to know God better?
- Is my heart really wishing to be learning? If not, why?

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