

Partnership FAQs (Updates)

Welcome to the WCS and HCA partnership FAQ page! As we come together to create a unified Christ-centered school, we understand you may have questions. This page will be updated regularly as new questions arise and we will be able to provide more answers. We're excited about this transition and look forward to building a strong, unified school community. Please check back for the latest updates!

Updates 3/28/2025

What will be the required dress code for the New School?

At this time, it is too early to determine the dress code requirements for the 2026–2027 school year. The school administration will collaborate with the newly established school board to review and decide on the dress code. This discussion will be part of a broader transition planning process, which will carefully consider all aspects of student life, including dress expectations, to ensure a smooth and well-thought-out transition for everyone.

What does a school board do?

In a Christian school, the school board serves as an **oversight body** that helps guide the school's mission, policies, and overall direction while ensuring alignment with its Christian values. The board typically focuses on **governance, vision, financial stewardship and accountability**, rather than daily operations, which are managed by the school administration.

Key Responsibilities of a Christian School Board:

1. Leadership & Governance

- a. The role of the board is governance-focused, not involved in daily operations.
- b. Hire, support and evaluate the school leadership (e.g., superintendent, head of school) effectively.
- c. Establish policies, budgets, and long-term strategic plans that align with the school's mission.
- d. Ensure compliance with legal, ethical, and accreditation standards.
- e. Prior experience in board governance, leadership, or strategic planning is preferred.

2. Strategic Planning & Vision

- a. Sets long-term goals to ensure the school's growth and sustainability.
- b. Guides future planning in areas such as academics, enrollment, and facilities.

3. Oversight & Accountability

- a. Provides governance and accountability for the administration without managing daily operations.

- b. Evaluates the head of school's leadership and ensures strong academic and spiritual programs.
- 4. Financial Stewardship**
- a. Oversees the budget to ensure financial health and wise stewardship of resources.
 - b. Helps with fundraising, tuition policies, and long-term financial planning.
- 5. Community Relations & Support**
- a. Acts as a bridge between the school, parents, and the larger Christian community.
 - b. Supports the school's leadership while also listening to the needs of families.

While the administration manages the day-to-day operations, the school board plays a vital role in ensuring that the school remains **mission-driven, financially sound, and Christ-centered**, creating a strong foundation for students to grow academically and spiritually.

How will the school board be selected?

The **Steering Team** will play a crucial role in the formation of the new school board. Their responsibilities will include:

1. **Establishing Board Member Criteria** – Defining the qualifications, experience, and characteristics necessary for individuals to serve effectively on the school board based on the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) criteria. This may include spiritual alignment, leadership experience, and a commitment to the school's mission. See below in #4.
2. **Evaluating and Vetting Candidates** – Reviewing potential board members to ensure they meet the established criteria. This process will involve assessing their background, skills, and alignment with the school's vision and values.
3. **Recommending the Final Board Selection** – After thorough evaluation, the Steering Team will present a list of recommended board members to both the **WCS School Board** and the **HBC Elder Board** for final approval.
4. **Board Criteria** – [Click here](#) for the criteria for Board members. If you feel that Board service is something God is calling you to at this time, please [complete this form](#) to receive additional information and an application for Board service.

This process ensures that the new school board is composed of dedicated and qualified individuals who will effectively guide the school's future while upholding its Christian mission and values.

What is the current governance structure of both WCS and HCA?

Governance structures differ between the two schools:

- **WCS (Westminster Christian School) is governed by a school board.** This board is responsible for overseeing policies, finances, and long-term strategic planning while ensuring the school remains aligned with its mission and values.
- **HCA (Harvest Christian Academy) is governed by the church elder board.** The elders provide leadership and oversight, ensuring the school operates in accordance with the church's mission and biblical principles.

Will the new school continue with the Home School Partnership program?

Yes! The Homeschool Partnership Program will continue next year and beyond as the two schools come together. We remain committed to providing support for homeschool families in areas such as sports and fine arts, ensuring that students continue to have access to these valuable opportunities.

What are the plans for athletics in the 2025–2026 school year?

The athletics departments are actively working with the IHSA and our conference to determine which sports we will be able to co-op for the 2025–2026 school year. This process involves evaluating eligibility requirements, logistics, and scheduling to ensure a smooth transition for our student-athletes. Our goal is to provide competitive opportunities while maintaining a strong athletic experience for all students. More details will be shared as plans are finalized.