

# EDUCATION IN IOWA





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In the Church Ambassador Network, a ministry of The FAMiLY LEADER Foundation, we hold to the teachings of the Bible that God created government for our good. When government does its job well the people are blessed, and that is exactly what we want to see in the State of Iowa.

Education has served at the heart of the State of Iowa's strategy to build stronger communities, and it has raised up countless generations of Iowans and has seen excellent success in building better communities for all Iowans. Strong education must continue to serve at the heart of Iowa's strategy for better communities for tomorrow. Our state is only as strong as our next generation. We need to continue to build an education system that will raise up the next generation of Iowans.



# EDUCATION STATISTICS



2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

**237**

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN IOWA

**1,302**

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN IOWA

**45,813**

STUDENTS SERVED

**498,009**

STUDENTS SERVED

<https://www.privateschoolreview.com/iowa>



THE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM IN MILWAUKEE INCLUDED A REDUCTION IN DRUG CONVICTIONS OF 53%, A DECREASE IN PROPERTY DAMAGE CRIMES OF 86% AND A REDUCTION IN PATERNITY SUITS OF 38% FOR ADULTS AGES 25-28.

[http://journal.apee.org/index.php?title=Parte3\\_2020\\_Journal\\_of\\_Private\\_Enterprise\\_Vol\\_35\\_No\\_3\\_Fall](http://journal.apee.org/index.php?title=Parte3_2020_Journal_of_Private_Enterprise_Vol_35_No_3_Fall)

**8%**

OF ALL K-12 STUDENTS IN IOWA ARE EDUCATED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS COMPARED TO THE 10% NATIONAL AVERAGE.

<https://www.privateschoolreview.com/iowa>



# BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF EDUCATION

## PARENTS ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATING THEIR CHILDREN.

The Bible teaches that parents are ultimately responsible for their children, and one of the primary responsibilities of parents is teaching and training their children. Parents are responsible to train their children in every area of life for both personal and societal flourishing. Parents have the highest interest in their children’s success, and a community thrives when parents are able to choose the best path for fulfilling the command to educate their children. We need an education system that greatly respects, honors and encourages the parent’s responsibility to educate their own children.



“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

## EDUCATION IS DESIGNED TO START STUDENTS ON THE RIGHT PATH FOR LIFE.

Education is an incredible tool for training the next generation of children. Any education system needs to assist parents in building a foundational path for children to follow for the remainder of life. Our education system must inspire a sense of wonder and a love of learning which will translate into instilling life-skills that equip our children for future success.



“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6

## GOVERNMENT IS DESIGNED TO SERVE PEOPLE, NOT FOR PEOPLE TO SERVE GOVERNMENT.

Government is a gracious gift from God for people. Government is to do you good. Our government must design an education system that is going to serve all people. Government must hold the interests of those it was designed to serve above the interests of the institution.



“For government is God’s servant for your good.” Romans 13:4



**PEOPLE ARE BOTH PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL BEINGS.**

The Bible teaches that people are both physical and spiritual beings. As a result, people have both spiritual and physical needs. Iowa’s children are no different. If we are to grow the next generation of Iowans, it is imperative that we invest in them both spiritually and physically. We need an education system that factors in both the physical and spiritual needs of a child.



“Sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth and made of dust; the second man is from heaven.” 1 Corinthians 15:44-47

**CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO BETTER THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

God has called Christians to seek the welfare of the city. Schools lie at the center of our cities, as they are raising up the next generation. We cannot seek the welfare of a city without investing in the city’s future. We must build a strong education system that invests in the city’s future interests, as a result preserving the future welfare of the city.



“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.” Jeremiah 29:7

**GOD HAS CALLED US TO FACTOR IN THE NEEDS OF THE POOR.**

Not all of Iowa’s children are growing up in homes with economic means, and many Iowa children are growing up in homes without family infrastructure. As we build an education system, we must factor in all Iowans, including the least among us. Education is one of Iowa youth’s greatest resources in leaving behind poverty. We need an education system that can serve children and families that are in financial need, offering them educational opportunities that are presently available only for those in a higher socio-economic status.



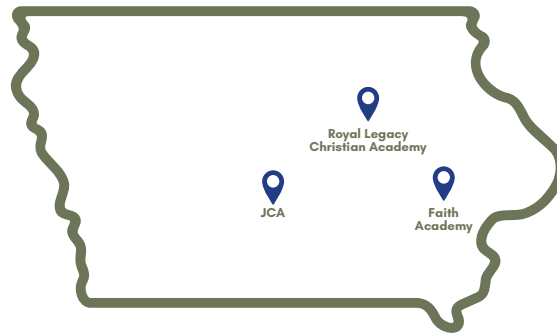
“For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore, I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’” Deuteronomy 15:11



“...if you look with favor on the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Sit here in a good place,’ and yet you say to the poor person, ‘Stand over there,’ or ‘Sit here on the floor by my footstool,’ haven’t you made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?” James 2:3-4



## URBAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN IOWA



JCA envisions to build a Christ-centered academic foundation within the hearts and minds of urban children, equipping them and their families to serve God and others to their fullest potential through outstanding affordable biblical education. They believe that economically disadvantaged children can perform at the highest level and with God's help students will become family and community leaders, working for justice, economic opportunity, and racial harmony, unifying the body of Christ in the city and throughout the world. JCA measures success by the diversity of minority underprivileged enrollment, improved academic achievement, changed trajectory of students and their families lives, and the lowering of student truancy rates.



Faith Academy strives to create a community where children love learning and grow in godliness. Staff of Faith Academy partner with families in raising tomorrow's leaders with a focus on excellence. As a Christ-centered school community they strive to radiate with the gospel message, transform the community, and elevate the value of education and redemption. Faith Academy believes the sublime premise of an education asserts that right thinking will lead to right, if not righteous, acting. The aims of education, the teacher's methods, the books and lessons, the traditions, and regulations of the school - all must express not just ideas, but norms, tending to make young people not only rational, but noble.



## Royal Legacy Christian Academy

The mission of Royal Legacy Christian Academy is to create a safe and friendly, Christ-centered environment where students can flourish academically and grow spiritually. RLCA believes that all children possess a God-given capacity for achieving excellence, that cultural diversity enriches lives and more accurately reflects the Kingdom of God, and that a solid Christian education should be affordable and accessible regardless of socio-economic status. With high expectations, rigorous curriculum and culturally relevant instruction methods, Royal Legacy Christian Academy will leave a lasting legacy of faith, academic excellence and empowerment for children, families, and the community.



*As our children started to become school aged, my husband and I noticed some very obvious gaps in educational options available to our daughters. Our options were to either homeschool our children, send them to the public school in our district, or opt for a private school whose tuition was out of our budget and lacked cultural diversity. Unhappy with those options, I along with my friend Kendall Helmer decided to begin organizing to open Royal Legacy Christian Academy. To our surprise, many other families had a desire to access another educational option for their children but were prevented because of a lack of financial resources. We offer our tuition on a sliding scale based on household income so that more families can access a faith-based education. This model affords more families the dignity of choice in how their children are educated regardless of their household income. While this sliding scale model is necessary given the current lack of funding options, it is burdensome at times for our limited staff and board of directors to raise the difference in our cost of operation. I urge you to empower families to choose the best educational model for their children by allowing them to access resources needed to do so. Private school is not a privilege reserved only for the elite, but rather a viable option along with public school that we should invite all families to choose, if it is best suited for their student. All children have a right to be in the environment best suited for their individual learning needs.*

**Pastor Chassidi Martin**

**Co-Founder/Co-Executive Director at Royal Legacy Christian Academy**



*Even though we're at the low end of what is considered middle class, it's important to my husband and I that our son, Benjamin, is educated in an environment that aligns with our values. We'd heard from various sources in the community that Royal Legacy Christian Academy (RLCA) is an excellent school. Just out of preschool, Benjamin had behavioral issues and we desperately needed educators that were willing to partner with us. We communicated our financial and behavioral concerns and learned RLCA was willing to navigate both circumstances with us. RLCA challenged and encouraged us as a family to achieve academic and behavioral goals through various systems. From Kindergarten to second grade, has been a journey. What started as turbulent has become smooth. Benjamin is now flourishing and we're so grateful for Royal Legacy Christian Academy. We believe School Choice would help make a difference to so many more families and allow for more educational alternatives.*

**Morgan Baker**

**Parent at Royal Legacy Christian Academy**

