

The New Wave of Student Activism: Wisdom for Christian School Leaders

Following the assassination of Charlie Kirk, many young students have become newly energized about activism and are seeking ways to get involved. This presents Christian schools with a unique challenge and opportunity as leaders navigate whether to allow students to start a “Club America” (the high school chapter of Turning Point USA) on campus.

ACSI's legal team has provided initial guidance, but the question extends beyond compliance. What happens if you do—or do not—allow such a chapter? Inevitably, students who are passionate about civic engagement will seek outlets for their energy and convictions. If one avenue is closed, they may pursue others—perhaps creating their own debate organization or affiliating with another national group. School leaders are in a unique position to guide these students toward meaningful engagement that aligns with biblical principles.

If students are motivated to start a club, several national organizations offer free resources to help them do so responsibly. Many of the area representatives of these organizations will be more than happy to guide you on their resources. One to consider is Young Americans for Freedom (YAF), a conservative organization emphasizing the philosophical roots of conservatism. YAF provides a speaker bureau similar to TPUSA's, featuring many Christian voices who acknowledge the cultural significance of Christianity in shaping the conservative movement. Though not explicitly a Christian organization, YAF allows students as young as 13 to form or join high school chapters at no cost.

Another organization is Students for Life, which equips students to advocate for the unborn. The group offers apologetics training and helps students establish local campus chapters in coordination with regional representatives. Involvement often leads to participation in state or national March for Life events, creating opportunities for students to grow in both convictions and service to the mothers in their area.

However, it's also important to anticipate broader implications. As conservative activism grows among students, others with differing perspectives may seek equal recognition. For example, if a school allows a conservative chapter like TPUSA or YAF, it could face requests for groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine or Young Democratic Socialists of America, both of which have structured national networks.



Christian schools must therefore be clear on the *why*—the guiding philosophy behind approving or declining any student organization. Decisions should be rooted in a biblical worldview, not partisan alignment, and should aim to cultivate discernment, respectful dialogue, and moral courage among students.

Even if your school has not yet faced requests for clubs that challenge a Christian worldview, establishing clear criteria now is wise. The rise of student activism is likely to continue, and school leaders have the sacred opportunity to model thoughtful engagement, preparing students not just to lead movements but to lead well, grounded in truth and grace.

The New Federal Education Scholarship Tax Credit: What Parents Need to Know to Get Scholarships for Their Children

What Is It?

The One Big Beautiful Bill created a landmark new federal tax credit that helps families pay for private school, tutoring, homeschool expenses, and other education needs. The tax credit works through Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs)—nonprofits that award scholarships to eligible students.

Scholarship Uses

- Private school tuition and fees
- Tutoring and after-school programs

- Textbooks, supplies, and technology
- Special needs services
- Transportation assistance

How Do I Get a Scholarship?

Step 1: Confirm your state opts in.

- Each state must choose to participate. If your governor or legislature says “yes,” families in your state can benefit.
- Parents can check the governor’s website for updates.

Step 2: Apply through a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO).

- SGOs are local nonprofits that distribute the scholarship funds.
- Consider applying through ACSI’s Children’s Tuition Fund.
- Once your state opts in, a list of approved SGOs will be posted by your state’s education department.

Step 3: Submit an application.

- Provide proof of income (tax return or pay stubs).
- Show your child’s school enrollment or eligibility for public school.

- List the expenses you plan to use the scholarship for (tuition, tutoring, supplies, etc.).

Step 4: Receive funds.

- If approved, the SGO will award you a scholarship that you can apply directly toward your child’s education expenses.

Key Dates

- Parents can begin to receive scholarships any time after January 1, 2027, but they are likely to be distributed in fall 2027.
- Applications will open once your state finalizes rules (check early in 2026).

How to Take Action Now

1. Call your governor and legislators and encourage them to opt in to the program.
2. Sign up for updates: Follow ACSI’s Advocacy Bi-weekly update at [ACSI.org/subscribe](https://www.acsi.org/subscribe).
3. Gather documents: Keep proof of income and education expenses handy for when applications open.
4. Consider donating to the Children’s Tuition Fund, for which you will receive a 100% tax credit, up to \$1,700. [👉](#)

CHOICES

Uber for Students: HopSkipDrive Rideshare Service Looks to Expand Alongside School Choice

By Norah Rami, Chalkbeat

When Melissa Zivicki’s local public school district offered a personalized ride service to transport her son to a private school for an individualized education program, she was initially skeptical.

“I thought it was really weird sending my kid with a stranger,” Zivicki said.

But if Zivicki drove her son to school, she said she would be late to work every day and have to leave her job early as well. It felt untenable. So she accepted the offer and before long began regularly sending her son to school through HopSkipDrive, a student-focused rideshare service.

Zivicki got more comfortable when she learned about



the company’s background checks, and she liked that she could follow her son using in-app mobile tracking. Plus, each morning, she’d get a text with a picture of her driver and the time that they would arrive.

Started in California in 2014, HopSkipDrive began as a