



Rationale for Revisions to ACSI Certification Requirements

ACSI remains committed to excellence in Christian education and to encouraging schools to employ qualified, professionally prepared, and mission-aligned personnel. Christian schools, however, continue to face significant challenges in recruiting, preparing, and retaining teachers and educational leaders. In response, ACSI is making two key changes that provide greater flexibility and accessibility while maintaining strong professional, instructional, and spiritual expectations.

Greater Flexibility for Professional Staff

ACSI certification will no longer be required for certain professional staff positions that do not include classroom instruction or responsibility for leading the school's instructional program. For roles such as athletic directors, guidance counselors, and deans of students, schools will determine the education, credentials, training, and experience appropriate for each position.

This change reflects ACSI's confidence in school leaders to make responsible hiring decisions and does not reduce professional expectations. Schools remain responsible for ensuring that counselors, mental health professionals, and other student-support personnel meet all applicable laws, licensing requirements, ethical standards, and expectations related to student care and safety.

The ACSI Professional Staff Certificate will remain available. Current certificate holders may continue to maintain and renew it, and schools may choose to encourage or require eligible professional staff members to pursue certification.

A New Alternative Certification Track for Teachers- COMING FALL 2026

ACSI is expanding access to teacher preparation through the new ACSI Alternative Certification Track, delivered on ACSI's digital platform in partnership with Cedarville University. Designed for elementary and secondary teachers who hold an accredited four-year degree but have not completed a traditional teacher-education program, this affordable, flexible, and technology-supported pathway allows working teachers to remain in the classroom while completing required coursework and developing essential instructional skills.

A strong Christian philosophy of education continues to remain foundational for all employees serving in an ACSI school. Christian Philosophy of Education coursework and ongoing professional development should help strengthen their biblical worldview, grow professionally, and contribute meaningfully to the school's mission.

Together, these two changes allow ACSI Certification to focus primarily on those with direct responsibility for teaching, learning, and instructional leadership while giving schools greater flexibility in staffing and providing teachers with a practical pathway to certification.