

## Laramie Christian Academy's Donor Quarterly Newsletter

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.  
Are you not much more valuable than they? Matt 6:26

## ESA FUNDING FOR 2025-26 - ARRIVES AND DEPARTS

February of 2025, the state of Wyoming voted into law, an Educational Savings Program (ESA). The law was made over a span of two years and was rigorously reviewed by representatives across party lines.

The Wyoming ESA bill is well written to: uphold the Wyoming constitution; have safeguards against government overreach as well as participant misuse; and provided funding for parents to use at the educational entity of their choice. The program is a great start towards equalizing for all students (regardless of whether a student is educated by public, private or home schools) the opportunities enjoyed by public students (who are allocated \$22,171 annually or more for students with IEP funding). Funding for the ESA does not come from public school budgets (federal, state or local) and Wyoming courts/legislature are also increasing public school funding simultaneously.

As an Academy, we are thrilled about what the new ESA funds mean for our current families sacrificing so much to send their children to LCA. We saw an increase in enrollment of families who had been wanting to attend LCA but could not afford the tuition (\$8950 for 2025). These families do not represent a mass exodus from public schools but rather families who have already left public school and want to switch from homeschooling to private schooling.

After passing the ESA law in the state legislature, the state of Wyoming began accepting applications for funding from families, in order to approve requests for funding. Almost 4,000 families applied to Wyoming for the ESA and were scheduled to start receiving disbursements on July 1, 2025. Sadly, just 5 business days before the funds were to be released, a Wyoming lower court judge placed an injunction halting the disbursement of the funds in response to the WEA (teachers' union) lawsuit alleging the ESA bill was unconstitutional. On July 15, the same judge ruled in favor of the WEA claiming that the ESA bill was unconstitutional. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the Attorney General filed an appeal to the Wyoming Supreme Court to overturn this ruling, but unless the new judge "stays the injunction" (removes the hold on the funds), the funds will not be available for the remainder of the school year while bureaucracy and court battles play out.

Misinformation spread through media and social media has twisted the facts about the new ESA bill. Some of our friends even have become unfriendly towards LCA and our mission/vision because of the misunderstanding that the ESA harms public education. Students who do attend public school, and/or receive further funding/support through IEP's, already have resources; they do not also need private school. They are not, as they claim in the lawsuit, being harmed by the ESA funds being awarded to others.

The ESA bill is intended for students who aren't currently enrolled in public school and are struggling to meet educational expenses. All parents who pay private school tuition, regardless of income, have expense struggles because they still pay taxes for public school on top of the extra private school tuition. The ESA bill was written to enable Wyoming to provide education for all residents -- regardless of whether they attend public school or other schooling choices.

LCA is responding quickly as an Academy to help families blindsided by this last-minute harmful withholding of the promised funding. We are offering fundraising discounts of \$3000 per student for families who help LCA fundraise, in at least our largest two fundraisers this coming year. (To raise the needed amount, we will rely on miraculous provision by God through 8 to 10 fundraisers and generous individual donors.)

We are also offering additional LCA scholarships for families that, after helping us fundraise, are still unable to meet the tuition increase from their expected \$1950 annually to \$5950 annually. This will put our fundraising need up to \$170,086 to cover LCA scholarships for the school year; a tall order especially coming after the start of our fiscal year and with an entire reorienting of our budget and objectives for the year. Regrettably, even with all LCA can do in Academy fundraising and scholarships, some families will still be unable to attend without outside help.

The individual result for the 51 students (30 families) who were enrolling in 2025-26 at LCA is \$7000 in lost funding per student. LCA will realize a loss of \$29,750 monthly or \$357,000 annually and a possible loss of 9 students or 17% of our previous enrollments. With our Fundraising Discount and an LCA scholarship the lowest we can offer will cost families \$250 monthly, per student. Six families who were new, and excited to be enrolling, have let us know they cannot attend without the ESA grant. Two additional families who were planning on returning for their third year (3 students total) let us know they cannot return without the grant. These families are simply unable to come up from the expected \$162.50 per month to the \$250 per month now required at the deepest discount.

We are saddened that unless funding comes in from either the state or other sources: these families may not be able to attend; the families that do attend will be struggling financially throughout the year, and LCA itself will be burdened with the highest annual fundraising campaign we have yet undertaken (approximately \$52,186 higher than last year).

**PRAY** We know that our God is a miracle working God who will supply all our needs. He tells us not to worry and to trust that he will provide. We ask you to join with us in praying for funding for the 2025-2026 school year.

**GIVE** Would you be able to donate to our LCA scholarship fund to enable us to allow all families who had previously enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year to attend?

# THANK YOU!



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# NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

LAST SCHOOL YEAR'S REMAINING FINANCIAL NEED	\$0
FAMILIES REQUESTING TUITION ASSISTANCE THROUGH FUNDRAISING DISCOUNT	96%
THIRD-PARTY (ACE) SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO LCA STUDENTS 2025-2026	\$22,180
PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES REQUESTING LCA SCHOLARSHIPS (ON TOP OF DISCOUNTS)	58%
LCA SCHOLARSHIPS REQUESTED (ON TOP OF FUNDRAISING DISCOUNT)	\$69,328
FUNDRAISING DISCOUNT EXPENSE	\$100,758

## 2025-2026 NUMBERS & GOALS

2025-2026 FUNDRAISING GOAL:	\$170,086
2025-2026 RAISED/PLEDGED:	\$24,710

2025-2026  
FUNDRAISING  
GOAL  
**\$170,086**



## A NOTE FROM OUR FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

Dear Donors and Friends of LCA,

As the Financial Director at Laramie Christian Academy, I'm reaching out with urgency on behalf of our families.

This summer, nearly 4,000 parents across Wyoming applied for the new Education Savings Account (ESA) program in good faith — trusting that the promised \$7,000 per student would allow them to choose the education that best fits their children.

At the last minute, those promised funds were taken away. In the final days of June, a lawsuit was filed against the ESA program, and now the entire rollout has been frozen by court injunction. The first batch of funds were scheduled to be distributed on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Those funds that families were counting on were immediately made unavailable.

We know God is our provider, and we also know that He moves through the generosity and courage of people like you.

You can donate now by visiting <https://www.laramiechristianacademy.com/donate/>.

With grace and truth,  
Natasha Snelson

## LCA SCHOLARSHIP REQUESTED FOR 2025-2026:



LARAMIE  
CHRISTIAN

Fall 2025