



OKLAHOMA STATE
DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: The State Department of Education
FROM: Stacy Eden
DATE: February 3, 2025
SUBJECT: Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship

Way Christian Academy (WCA) request approval to participate in the Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship for Students with Disabilities program. They are accredited through The International Christian Accrediting (ICA) and recognized by the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission charged by the Oklahoma State Department of Education with overseeing educational quality of accredited private schools in the state.

Way Christian Academy is dedicated to providing a supportive, inclusive, and faith-based educational environment where students with learning disabilities can thrive both academically and socially. Through personalized Individual Service Plans, targeted interventions like a reading specialist program, and classroom accommodations such as preferential seating and assistive technology, WCA ensures tailored support for each student. Small class sizes allow for individualized attention, while teachers trained in differentiated instruction work closely with parents to maintain consistent progress. Committed to growth, WCA aims to expand its intervention team, increase access to assistive technologies, and build partnerships for supplemental services, fostering a nurturing space where every child can reach their fullest potential.

Included is compliance documentation that meets certain criteria in the application.

- Criteria 1: Fiscal Soundness – Certified Accountant Statement
- Criteria 2: Non-Discrimination – Student and Parent Handbook
- Criteria 3: Teacher Requirement – Employee Handbook
- Criteria 4: Accreditation – ICA and OPSAC Certificate

SE



Way Christian Academy

1st-6th Grade

NAME OF PRIVATE SCHOOL

GRADE LEVELS

1801 S Kelly Ave

Edmond

OK

73013

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP + 4

(405) 463-9649

https://waychristianacademy.com/

PHONE NUMBER

WEBSITE ADDRESS

Ja'rod Walker

SUPERINTENDENT, HEADMASTER OR PRINCIPAL NAME

Ja'rod Walker

jarod@waychristianacademy.com

PRIVATE SCHOOL CONTACT FOR LNH

CONTACT EMAIL

The Lindsey Nicole Henry (LNH) Scholarship Act requires participating schools to be physical, brick-and-mortar institutions in Oklahoma and meet certain approval criteria. Schools must provide documentation to show they comply, which will be reviewed by the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE). This documentation is often found in the school's policies or handbook. Please prepare a PDF for each item listed below to email with your application.

The OSDE will approve a private school for the scholarship program if it meets the following criteria:

1. The private school must demonstrate fiscal soundness by having been in operation for one (1) year or providing the OSDE with a statement by a certified public accountant confirming that the private school is insured and the owner or owners have sufficient capital or credit to operate the school for the upcoming year by serving the number of students anticipated with expected revenues from tuition and other sources that may be reasonably expected. In lieu of a statement, a surety bond or letter of credit for the amount equal to the scholarship funds for any quarter may be filed with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. **Proof of compliance required. Save in a PDF, and label it Criteria 1.**
2. The private school must comply with the antidiscrimination provision of 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. **Proof of compliance required. Save in a PDF, and label it Criteria 2.**
3. The private school must employ or contract with teachers who hold baccalaureate or higher degrees, or have at least three (3) years of teaching experience in public instruction in subjects taught. **Proof of compliance required. A statement or excerpt from the school polices or handbook stating the educational requirement for the teaching staff is acceptable documentation. Save in a PDF, and label it Criteria 3.**

4. The private school must meet the accreditation requirements set by the SDE or another accrediting association approved by the OSDE. *Please type the name of your accrediting agency in the box below. Save the accreditation approval letter or certificate as a PDF, and label it Criteria 4.*

The International Christian Accrediting and Oklahoma Private School Accredition Commission

5. The private school must be able to provide services and/or accommodations for students with disabilities. *Please describe in detail the services, programs and support you offer to students with disabilities in the box below.*

See Attchement

I verify that Way Christian Academy complies with all the criteria listed
NAME OF PRIVATE SCHOOL

above and will provide documentation for each as proof. The information I have provided to the OSDE is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE 

1/24/2025

DATE

How to Submit the Private School Application to participate in the LNH Scholarship

1. Save each criterion as an individual PDF, labeling them as "Criteria 1," "Criteria 2," and so on.
2. Email the complete application, along with all required PDF attachments to stacy.eden@sde.ok.gov. You may also contact Stacy at (405) 521-4876.

Certified Public Accountant Statement of Fiscal Soundness

To Lindsey Nicole Henry Scholarship Committee:

I, David Schuermann, a Certified Public Accountant licensed in the State of Oklahoma, hereby confirm that Way Christian Academy meets the fiscal soundness requirements as outlined by the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

1. Insurance Coverage

I confirm that Way Christian Academy is insured with appropriate coverage for its operations.

2. Capital and Credit

Based on my review of the school's financial information, I certify that the Board of Way Christian Academy have sufficient capital and/or credit to operate the school for the upcoming year. This includes serving the anticipated number of students based on projected revenues from tuition and other reasonably expected sources of income.

This statement is provided based on the financial information made available to me as of January 20, 2025. Please contact me if further clarification is needed.

Sincerely,

David Schuermann

David Schuermann, CPA

405-315-0295

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Supervised Visits:

- Visitors may be accompanied by a school staff member or designated escort during their visit, especially when accessing instructional areas or interacting with students.
- School staff will provide guidance and assistance to visitors to ensure a positive and productive visit while maintaining appropriate supervision and safety measures.

Child Safety and Protection:

Child Protection Policies:

- Way Christian Academy has established comprehensive child protection policies and procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of students at all times.
- Visitors are expected to adhere to these policies and to conduct themselves in a manner that prioritizes the safety and welfare of students.

Interaction with Students:

- Visitors are reminded to interact respectfully and appropriately with students, refraining from behavior or communication that may cause discomfort or distress to students.
- Physical contact with students should be limited to situations where it is necessary and appropriate, and should always be conducted in accordance with school policies and guidelines.

Conclusion:

By adhering to our Visitor Policy, Way Christian Academy aims to create a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for all visitors while prioritizing the safety and well-being of our students and staff. We appreciate the cooperation of all visitors in following these guidelines and contributing to a positive and productive experience during their time on campus.

Tours & Admissions Policy

Way Christian Academy Student Admissions Policy

Edmond, Oklahoma

Way Christian Academy exists to provide a Christ-centered education that nurtures students in faith, character, and academic excellence. We welcome students from families who share our commitment to biblical principles and Christian discipleship.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Way Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. We do not discriminate based on race, color, national or ethnic origin in the

Introduction:

Welcome to Way Christian Academy! As an employee of our institution, you are an integral part of our mission to provide a Christ-centered education of excellence. This handbook serves as a guide to our policies, procedures, and expectations. Please read it carefully and refer to it as needed. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your supervisor or the Human Resources Department.

Mission and Statement of Faith:

Mission

Way Christian Academy is committed to providing a Christ-centered education that nurtures the whole child – academically, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. We strive to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to excel in a diverse and ever-changing world while fostering a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ. We exist to be a family living in devotion together, whose sole purpose is to Host The Presence of the Lord in our city, and to Show and Share the Good News/Gospel of Jesus to everyone!

Statement of Faith

At Way Christian Academy, we believe in:

- **The Trinity:** We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons (perichoresis) – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **The Bible:** We believe in the divine inspiration and authority of the Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, as the inspired Word of God.
- **Salvation:** We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- **The Church:** We believe in the universal Church (ecclesia), the body of Christ, and the importance of fellowship and discipleship within the local church community.
- **The Second Coming:** We believe in the personal and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Employment Policies:

Way Christian Academy Teacher Qualification Policy

At Way Christian Academy, we are committed to providing high-quality education that aligns with our mission to nurture and educate students in a Christ-centered environment. To maintain educational excellence, the following qualifications are required for all teaching staff:

1. **Educational Requirements:**

- All teachers employed or contracted by Way Christian Academy must hold a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited institution, or
- Have a minimum of three (3) years of teaching experience in public instruction in the subjects they are assigned to teach.
- a. Documentation of Compliance:**
 - Teachers must provide valid proof of their qualifications prior to their employment or contractual engagement. Acceptable documentation includes:
 - Copies of diplomas or transcripts confirming the baccalaureate or higher degree, or
 - Records from previous employers verifying at least three (3) years of teaching experience in public instruction.
- b. Policy Statement:**
 - This qualification requirement is stated in the Way Christian Academy Policies and Procedures Handbook to ensure transparency and compliance with applicable regulations.
- c. Verification Process:**
 - The school administration will review and verify all documentation submitted by prospective teachers.
 - Copies of the verified documents will be maintained in the teacher's personnel file for compliance purposes.

Way Christian Academy is dedicated to hiring educators who meet these qualifications to uphold the integrity of our educational programs and ensure the success of our students.

Equal Employment Opportunity: Way Christian Academy is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other protected status.

1. **Anti-Discrimination and Harassment:** We are committed to maintaining a work environment free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation of any kind.
2. **Confidentiality:** Employees are expected to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information and proprietary data related to the institution, its students, and its employees.
3. **Conflict of Interest:** Employees must avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any potential conflicts to their supervisor or the Human Resources Department.
4. **Drug-Free Workplace:** Way Christian Academy maintains a drug-free workplace and prohibits the unlawful use, possession, or distribution of drugs and alcohol on its premises.
5. **Dress Code and Appearance:** Employees are expected to dress professionally and maintain a neat and clean appearance in accordance with the institution's dress code policy.
6. **Attendance and Punctuality:** Employees are expected to report to work on time and adhere to their assigned work schedules. Absences should be reported promptly to the supervisor or Human Resources Department.

7. **Workplace Safety:** We prioritize the safety and well-being of our employees and provide a safe work environment free from hazards and risks.

Evacuation Plans:

The International Christian Accrediting

certifies that

Way Christian Academy

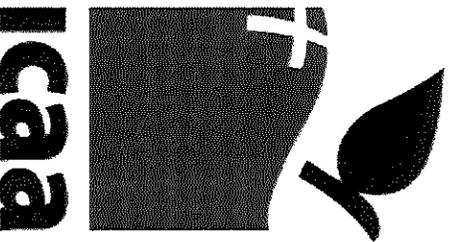
Edmond, Oklahoma

has met the requirements for

Accreditation

Kindergarten through Grade 6

October 2024 - June 2026



Ernest L. Carlisle

CHAIRMAN

Dina DeLoe

SECRETARY

Christopher D. Blyden

DIRECTOR

OPSAC Commission

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

This certificate is issued to

Way Christian Academy

Effective 2024-2025

Kindergarten—Grade 6

By the Members of the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission
upon the recommendation of the Commission.

The issuance of this certificate acknowledges the fulfillment of
requirements, provisions, and standards prescribed by OPSAC for member accrediting agencies.



Chairman
Colin Yocum



Executive Director
Chris Belyeu





Services and Support for Students with Disabilities

Way Christian Academy is committed to providing a supportive and inclusive educational environment that enables students with learning disabilities to thrive academically and socially. While we are a small school, we strive to ensure every student receives the personalized attention and support they need. Below is a detailed outline of the services, programs, and accommodations we offer to students with disabilities:

Academic Support

1. Individual Service Plans (ISPs):

- Students identified with learning disabilities or other needs are provided with an Individual Service Plan (ISP) tailored to their specific challenges and goals.
- The ISP outlines necessary accommodations, strategies, and interventions to support the student's academic progress.

2. Reading Intervention Program:

- We employ a qualified Reading Specialist who works with students requiring additional literacy support.
- The Reading Specialist is available every Monday from 8:45 AM to 12:45 PM to provide targeted reading intervention for students across all grade levels.
- Students with ISPs are pulled from class for one-on-one or small group reading sessions designed to improve literacy skills, comprehension, and fluency.

3. Intervention Days:

- Our daily schedule incorporates dedicated intervention periods for academic support.
- During these periods, teachers provide additional instruction, remediation, and assistance to students who need help mastering key concepts.

Classroom Accommodations

- Teachers implement classroom strategies and accommodations outlined in the student's ISP. Examples include:
 - Preferential seating to reduce distractions.
 - Extended time for assignments and tests.
 - Use of assistive technology, if applicable.
 - Simplified instructions and additional examples for better understanding.
 - Opportunities for breaks to support focus and emotional regulation.

Small Class Sizes



- Our small class sizes allow for individualized attention and support from teachers.
- Teachers are trained to differentiate instruction, ensuring that the needs of students with disabilities are addressed effectively within the classroom setting.

Parental Collaboration

- We work closely with parents to ensure continuity of support between home and school.
- Regular communication and progress updates are provided to parents to keep them informed of their child's growth and achievements.

Specialized Support Staff

- Our Reading Specialist plays a key role in identifying and addressing literacy challenges for students with disabilities.
- All teachers participate in ongoing professional development to understand and implement effective strategies for supporting students with learning disabilities.

Future Goals

As a growing school, we are continually working to enhance our services for students with disabilities. Our long-term goals include:

- Expanding our intervention team to include additional specialists.
- Increasing access to assistive technologies.
- Developing partnerships with local organizations to provide supplemental services, such as speech therapy or occupational therapy.

At Way Christian Academy, we believe that every child is uniquely gifted and deserves the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. We are dedicated to creating a supportive, faith-based environment where all students can succeed.