

**Educational Planning Process.** This resource is designed to help early childhood centers and elementary schools as they struggle to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The process involves members of your school, church, community and parent leadership and looks at seven focus areas: community, Lutheran identity, governance, finance, enrollment viability, academic program, and facilities. LSA is available to make a presentation to your school board and council, and to walk with you through the process. **Document and LSA consultation only available to member schools.**

**Scholarship Aid.** How do you and your teachers feel about Lutheran education? What does it mean to children at your school? Are their parents struggling to pay? Have you been looking for other funding sources? LSA's "Hope Fund" Tuition Assistance may be the answer, **but is only available to students of member schools.**

**Professional Development Lending Library.** LSA has a collection of DVDs funded under Title IV and training material videos which may be rented without cost to members. There is a charge for postage.

**Directory.** This valuable resource is provided on a CD and offers a comprehensive listing of area schools, including several handy cross references designed to help you find information quickly. **Available only to LSA members.**

**You get all of the above and more for a small price.** The fee for full-day students is \$11 per child. Students enrolled part-time (early childhood) are calculated at \$1.10 per half-day session. (Each full day equals 2 tenths, costing \$2.20.) We now offer an invoice for easy calculation of half-day sessions.

**You're right – our school/early childhood center should join! How can we?** It's really simple. Complete the enclosed member invoice and return with payment. You'll be glad you did!

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## Benefits to Membership in the Lutheran Schools Association (LSA)

Look closely at LSA's new logo. What symbols do you see? How do these reflect the work of LSA? By the way, did you also see "lsa"?

The mission of the Lutheran Schools Association is to serve, support and represent the ministries of Lutheran schools in the metropolitan area, assisting them to provide quality, Christ-centered education.

The purpose of this guide is to share what LSA does for schools and early childhood centers, and why we believe the cost of membership is worth it. This booklet is for you if you've ever wondered...

-  What is LSA?
-  How do members benefit?
-  How can our school or early childhood center join?

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**The Lutheran Schools Association** was incorporated in 1977 as a pan-Lutheran organization of 25 schools. Over the past 30+ years, membership has grown to 73 schools and early childhood centers with sponsorship by three agencies and two judicatories. The association serves three primary functions: advocate, partner, and educator.

**Why should schools/early childhood centers join?** In these difficult economic times, we respect your need to spend dollars carefully. We can also make your job easier by helping with the following:

**Advocacy on Governmental Levels** may well be LSA's most significant service to schools. Information is shared regularly and you are encouraged to take advantage of all opportunities. If something isn't clear, please know that we want to help you.

- Represents Lutheran schools on the NYS Advisory Council, monitoring state programs, such as Mandated Services Reimbursements, NYS testing programs, NYS loan programs for textbooks, computer software and hardware, and library books.
- Member of the Non-Public School Standing Committee which meets with NYC DOE officials regarding administration of all title funded programs, Title I, Title IIA, Title IID, Title III and Title IV. Our active participation assures equitable services to all eligible students in our member Lutheran schools. Professional Development as well as direct services to our students are key components of many title programs.
- Advocates for equitable services in bus transportation and high school information with NYC DOE officials and also health services with NYC DOH. UPK applications assisted by LSA's staff.
- Academic Intervention Services, coordinated by LSA for all member schools in NYC, Long Island and Westchester, fund workshops designed to train teachers to meet state standards.

***LSA member schools benefit by this advocacy on all governmental levels and receive services of tremendous value simply by virtue of their membership.***

**Regional meetings.** Directors and principals have regular opportunity to gather in clusters (smaller areas) for lunch, conversation about their good ideas and challenges, and to socialize.

**Universal PreK (UPK).** This is a state-funded free program for four-year-olds and is being offered in collaboration with many of our Lutheran preschools and elementary schools. Each year, the state opens up the RFP process for new providers. This program is open to all preschools throughout the state and we encourage you to consider becoming a provider. ***If you are a member school, LSA provides consultation at no charge.***

**Coordinating of Testing.** LSA recommends that all elementary schools administer the **Terra Nova** Standardized Achievement test in the fall of every school year. While we serve as the conduit for ordering the tests, each school is responsible for returning them to the testing company for scoring. In addition if an elementary school wishes to take part in the **NYS ELA and Math tests**, grades 4 and 6, LSA works with BOCES by entering student data, providing a scoring site, and sending the results to BOCES. ***The ELA/Math consortium fee is significantly less than that charged to an individual school.***

**Board of Health Licensing.** Many early childhood centers/schools that serve children 2-5 years-old for a full day, need to be licensed either by the Board of Health (NYC) or the Office of Children and Family Services (Nassau and Suffolk counties). Licensing by either of these agencies is required when children (2-5 yrs) are enrolled in a free-standing preschool more than 2½ hours/day. Until recently, elementary schools held an NPR (No Permit Required) status. However in revising Article 45, the NYC Board of Health has new requirements which must be met by elementary schools with children 2-5 years of age. ***LSA can provide consultation, at no charge to member schools.***

**Professional Development Days.** LSA strongly believes that the excellence of our schools lies in the hearts, hands and minds of our administrators and teachers. Consequently we provide two professional development workshops for early childhood teachers and elementary teachers each year; and two administrators' conferences, one in November for early childhood directors and another in January for elementary and high school administrators. ***If you are an LSA member school, there is a 50% discount to these conferences.***

**Professional Development Certificates.** Teachers and administrators may receive certificates for completed professional development hours.