



Old Dominion Association of Church Schools

SB 905

2015 Virginia General Assembly

ODACS Talking Points in Opposition

- The bill is unnecessary. The Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit program already includes sufficient DOE oversight for both accredited and non-accredited private schools that participate.
- The oversight includes reporting of achievement test scores; aggregating the scores by grade level, gender, family income level, number of years of participation in the program, and race; publishing the data on the DOE web site; and calculating the graduation rates of participating students.
- Most ODACS schools are non-accredited. Despite this, they have a long proven record of excellent achievement test scores.

Questions to Ask

- Is there any evidence of non-accredited schools making use of national norm-referenced achievement tests that are somehow inadequate or substandard?
- Why did the Virginia Education Association request this bill of the patron? Will passage of the bill result in VEA's suddenly being in favor of the Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit?
- Why do VEA and the patron feel that the extensive reporting requirements already included in the Code represent insufficient oversight?
- Is not the ultimate purpose of the bill to undermine parental choice among those parents who wish to choose excellent, non-accredited private schools for their children?
- ***Does not the bill lead a step closer to strong Board influence over private school curriculum? Could it not potentially lead in time to Board control of private school curriculum? Could it not potentially lead to a requirement of Board approval of achievement tests for all private schools in Virginia?***