

A photograph of four children walking up a set of concrete steps outside a school building. They are seen from behind, wearing backpacks. The child on the far left is a girl with long dark hair, wearing a white shirt and a dark skirt. Next to her is a girl with long brown hair, wearing a white shirt and dark pants. In the center is a boy wearing a white shirt and red shorts. On the right is a boy wearing a white shirt and blue pants. They are all walking up the steps towards a school entrance with a colorful door. The text "COVER OUR SCHOOLS" is overlaid on the image. "COVER" and "OUR" are in black, and "SCHOOLS" is in orange. There are orange and yellow rectangular bars on the left side of the image.

COVER OUR SCHOOLS

REVITALIZING OUR COMMUNITY BY EMPOWERING EDUCATION THROUGH THE
POWER OF PRAYER AND VOLUNTEERING.

PLANNING GUIDE



THE BASICS FOR ESTABLISHING A
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CHURCH
AND NEIGHBORING SCHOOLS

JAMES 5:16b "THE EFFECTIVE FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH."



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to assist you through the process of partnering with neighboring schools within your local church community. Our goal is to bring awareness to numerous concerns that are taking place on school campuses across our nation. Circumstances include school shootings, the increase of students experiencing mental health challenges, increased student suicide, and the rise in students participating in maladaptive behaviors to cope with trauma and life circumstances.

In addition, we would like to bring awareness to the nationwide shortage of teachers, the overwhelmedness of teachers and administrators, multiple vacancies of faculty and staff on all campuses, and the overall need to cover our education system.

Please note that the goal or focus of this campaign is NOT to recruit faculty, staff, students, or family members of your partner schools as members of your congregation. Individuals should also NOT force their religious beliefs on others or condemn individuals who live by different principles or religions.

The ultimate goal of this campaign is to restore our communities with the increased participation of the Church through prayer (faith) and volunteering (works); to represent Christ within our community by supporting local schools. This guide can be used by faith-based community organizations, community leaders, churches, and individual ministries.

While every school may or may not accept your help, we want school personnel to know that their local church is there to assist in whatever way possible and that their local church cares about the faculty, staff, and students at that school.

We are delighted that you are considering joining this movement as we glorify God and represent Him in our communities!

If you have additional questions and concerns after reading through this guide, do not hesitate to contact us at coverourschools516@gmail.com, and we will gladly assist.



Kelley J Bell
Founder of Cover Our Schools
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ABOUT COVER OUR SCHOOLS

IT'S TIME TO RESTORE OUR COMMUNITIES



THE PROBLEM:

The state of our society.

What makes a society function? Family, Marriage, Education, Government, and Church are the five pillars, also known as social institutions, on which society functions. Unfortunately, our communities and country are in the state they are in because of the attack on these institutions. To see a change in this world, we must restore these institutions.

THE SOLUTION:

The Church must do its part if people want to see change.

The word church is referred to in two ways. First, according to biblical principles, the Church is a reference to the body of Christ, the believers, the ekklesia, the "called out ones" who assemble. Secondly, the church references the local church, the building where believers gather.

The purpose of the Church (the body of Christ) is to manifest the characteristics of Jesus Christ on the earth. Ephesians 3: 10 -11 (NLT), "10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord." So what are some characteristics of Christ that the Church should display? Jesus is love (1 John 4:8), omnipotent (Isaiah 9:6), Jesus is life (John 1:4), and He is truth and grace (John 1:14). The Church must manifest love (John 13:35), the power of God (Ephesians 3:20), His life (Colossians 3:4), uphold His truth (1 Timothy 3:15), and manifest His grace (Ephesians 2:7)

The Church is to follow God's plan and patterns set in the New Testament by submitting to God's Spirit and obeying His will. When the Church, the Body of Christ, and local assembly of believers, fulfill their assignment, God will be glorified throughout the earth. It is also the Church's responsibility to combat the powers that oppose the Kingdom of God.

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." The devil is no match for the Church. But how does the Church combat the attacks of their enemy? They do this through activating and using their spiritual weapons, one of which is prayer. Ephesians 6: 18 (NKJV) "18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints."



ABOUT COVER OUR SCHOOLS

IT'S TIME TO RESTORE OUR COMMUNITIES



THE POWER OF PRAYER:

One of the most powerful tools that believers have access to is prayer.

People will experience God's divine glory and power on earth through prayer. James 5:16 "Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Through prayer, believers can communicate with God (Jeremiah 29:12), learn about His will and fulfill His purpose and mandate (Jeremiah 33:3), and triumph against the enemy (Ephesians 6:18). Many times believers pray for themselves, family members, and friends for direction, clarity, healing, or breakthroughs.

It's time that the Church intentionally prays for their communities and use their line of communication to God to call on His power for protection, clarity, and provision for all individuals connected to their neighboring schools.



COVER OUR SCHOOLS BY FAITH



Scripture tells us it is impossible to please God without faith. Therefore, our goal as the Church is to please God through our actions as we represent Him on Earth. What is faith? Hebrews 11: 1-3 ESV "1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it, the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith, we understand that the universe was created by the word of God so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

As we come together as the body of Christ to restore our communities, we stand by faith through our church and school partnerships; we will glorify God. Our belief is therefore grounded in the promises of God and His abilities. Through these partnerships, our communities will experience the transforming power of God's love, peace, guidance, and protection to all connected.

This Campaign asks the Church to activate their faith through prayer and declarations over the schools they choose to cover. All churches have the means to Cover Our Schools in prayer. To specifically cover things that are taking place in the spiritual realm that impact our administrators, teachers, classified support, students, and families. You must believe, have faith, that God will answer your prayers.

On the following page is a detailed list, but not exhaustive, of prayer requests and declarations we are asking you to stand in agreement with for our schools.

We want you to pray for your schools and provide prayer opportunities for those connected to the school. After signing up for the Campaign, you will receive a detailed list of how to offer school prayer opportunities.



COVER OUR SCHOOLS BY FAITH



- Protect the schools from random acts of violence taking place on campus.
- Declare that the following spirits and every other spirit attached to its groupings are ineffective and powerless in their tactics and strategies on each school campus that you are praying for: the spirits of suicide, depression, anxiety, fear, sexual impurity, infirmity, grief, fatigue, lust, pride, deceit, confusion, heaviness, oppression, discouragement, frustration, insecurity, control, retaliation, strife, and rebellion.
- Pray that administrators and teachers can balance the demands of their job.
- Pray that God gives teachers the creativity and ability to create engaging lesson plans to help students learn the content.
- Pray that God's presence will fill every part of the campus.
- Pray for the strength and boldness of the students, faculty, and staff that are believers on the school campus so that they can represent Christ without fear.
- Pray that schools will have abundant resources based on their specific needs and desires.
- Pray that leaders on campus lead in a way that considers the needs of those under their leadership.
- Pray for the kindness amongst students.
- Pray that each student has a safe adult on campus for support and will go to them when they need help.
- Pray that administrators and teachers renew their passion for molding the minds of our future leaders.
- Pray that administrators and teachers can build positive relationships with students and their families.
- Pray that parents and caregivers will actively participate in the academic success of their student(s).
- Pray that the schools create systems that quickly and effectively eliminate bullying amongst students.
- Pray that there is enough mental health support for students on campus. Social workers, mental health counselors, school counselors, SAFE Coordinators, and psychologists can meet the needs on their campus.



COVER OUR SCHOOLS BY WORKS

"FOR AS THE BODY WITHOUT THE SPIRIT IS DEAD, SO FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD ALSO."

JAMES 2:26



All churches can partner with schools through their faith, but this Campaign also encourages churches to get involved through “works,” such as volunteering and purchasing supplies. While we address spiritual concerns through prayer, we use our “works” to meet material and practical needs. We understand that not every church may have the human resources or finances to support schools, and that’s perfectly fine! We hope you will still commit to praying for our schools.

If your church is in a position to assist beyond prayer, we will provide you with ideas and details to guide you. Please keep in mind that each school may have specific needs and different processes for involvement. It’s important to communicate with the school principal or designated point of contact before purchasing items or signing up for specific tasks.

If your church has ample resources to support schools through “works,” we ask you to extend your assistance beyond your local community to a Title I school. A Title I school is a low-income school where most students receive free or reduced lunch. Local church members typically come from the surrounding community, so neighboring churches to Title I schools might lack the resources to meet those schools' physical needs. We encourage you to support these campuses as you see fit.

After signing up for the Campaign, you will receive a detailed, though not exhaustive, list of ways to support schools through “works.”



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

NO MATTER THE SIZE OF YOUR MINISTRY, YOU CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY



HOW TO SELECT SCHOOLS

The goal is to select schools that are near your church, ministry, or community-based organization. You can achieve this in a few ways: 1. Access a list of school districts in your state and identify schools that are close to your ministry. 2. Conduct a Google search for schools within your zip code and choose schools based on their proximity. 3. Consider covering the schools that your members currently attend.

HOW MANY SCHOOLS SHOULD I SELECT?

There is no limit to how many schools you can select to cover through prayer. However, be aware that however many schools you decide to cover through prayer, we do want you to make contact with the school throughout the school year. This can be done via the template email that we will provide you to send.

Suppose you select to physically partner with a school using the examples listed in the previous section on works. We ask you to assess the available resources of your church and commit to the number of schools based on that availability. You should have more schools covered through prayer than you will cover via works. If you decide to partner with a school physically, you must contact the school principal to determine the steps needed.

WHAT DO I DO AFTER I SELECT THE SCHOOLS I WANT TO COVER?

After selecting the schools you wish to support, please notify Cover Our Schools by completing the survey that indicates your chosen schools. Once your pledge is submitted, you will receive a Church Implementation Guide and a School Guide to assist you in your next steps.

The Church Implementation Guide includes a template for an introductory email and a checklist to help you throughout the school year. Additionally, the email templates will provide the necessary vocabulary to introduce yourself to your selected school and explain your intent and purpose.

The School Guide should be sent to the designated contact person at the school of your choice. It explains the campaign and provides school administrators with the additional information needed to establish and maintain a faith-based partnership. **Please read through the School Guide so you are aware of the information being shared with your school contacts.**

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I COMPLETE THE SURVEY?

Once you complete the survey, you will receive a confirmation email from Cover Our Schools within 3-5 business days. In this email, you will find your Church Implementation Guide, which will support you for the rest of the school year, as well as a School Guide to share with the schools you have selected and a School Guide that you will send to your selected schools.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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WHERE CAN I LOCATE THE SURVEY?

The survey link is available on our website at www.coverourschools.com, or you can scan the QR code below for immediate access.



SURVEY



WEBSITE

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHURCH IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS OR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, AND CAN ONLY OFFER PRAYERS?

If your church can only pray for schools and not volunteer additional time and resources, please still sign up! Prayer is the most powerful tool we have as believers and is imperative to release the power of God throughout our communities.

DO WE HAVE TO PRAY ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES?

Prayer is not constrained by geographical boundaries, so you are not obligated to pray on school campuses. The primary objective of prayer should be to take a proactive approach rather than a reactive one. If your church has an Intercessory Team, you can incorporate specific prayer requests for the chosen schools during your designated prayer times.

DO WE HAVE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY?

To monitor the progress of this campaign, we kindly ask everyone to complete the survey for data collection purposes. It only takes a few minutes of your time, so please take a moment to fill it out. If you sign up and later find that you cannot commit, please email us at coverourschools516@gmail.com, and we will remove your commitment at any time.

IF A SCHOOL INDICATES THEY DO NOT WANT OUR SUPPORT, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

If a representative from the school indicates that they do not want your support, that is perfectly fine. We encourage you to continue praying for that school. If you feel inspired to do so, you can reach out to the school again at a later time to offer your support. Keep in mind that school personnel may change throughout the year, and people may reconsider their decisions later on.

THE TIME IS NOW

IT'S TIME TO RESTORE OUR COMMUNITIES

We see the condition of our communities around the world, and it's time for the Church to take action and make a difference.

Thank you for considering joining this cause and for taking the time to read this guide.

If you are ready to create positive change in your community, please complete the survey today to receive your Church Implementation Guide. Let's get to work!

