

## Course Title: The Mission of the Christian School

**Course Format:** online course (site: <https://acsieu.org/moodle> )

**Course Language:** English

**Participants:** primarily for K-12 teachers

**Length of Course:** 4 weeks (~3-4 hours/week of study)

**Hours\*:** Reading: 3 hours  
Viewing: 1 hour  
Interaction with other participants in forums: 4 hours  
Activities/Writing: 4 hours  
*\*Estimated. Actual hours required will vary depending on participant background.*

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### Course Description

Both the Christian school and the secular school study the world around them, but they study it from significantly different perspectives and for significantly different purposes. This course explores those differences and helps us clearly articulate those differences in our thought processes and in our communication. We will use chapter 1 of *First the Foundation*, by Stephen Kaufmann as a platform to discuss the questions: What does the Bible teach us about the purpose of education? How does the mission of the Christian school differ from the secular vision for education? How does the biblical purpose of education apply to my current school context? How can I justify in my school's context the equipping of students to love and serve God as being central to the school's mission?

### Course Purpose

An understanding of the purpose of Christian education provides a foundation for the Christian teacher. This shapes their role, their relationships and the teaching process and gives purpose and inspiration to their calling. Participants will be challenged to discover and reflect on the purpose of Christian education and their own role in that process.

### Course Objectives

*Students (participants) will...*

1. articulate the differences between a Christian and a secular approach to education.
2. identify several specific ways in which the Christian school teaches its students to think and act.
3. investigate and discuss the biblical foundation that is central to education.
4. analyze various definitions of education and comment on their strengths and weaknesses from a biblical perspective.
5. evaluate their own school's mission statement and student outcomes based on how these align with the biblical mandate for education.

### Required Texts/Other Resources

Kaufmann, S. (2008). *First the Foundation: A primer for Christian School Education*. ACSI Europe, Budapest, Hungary. (Chapter 1 - Provided in electronic format)

Edlin, Richard J. (1999). *The Cause of Christian Education, Third Edition*. National Institute for Christian Schools. (selections)



## Course Outline

Week	Instruction Methods	Focus Topic	Activities
1	Reading: <u>First the Foundation</u> , ch. 1  Video presentation with PowerPoint presented by the course instructor	Defining education	- Forum discussion: Personal introduction - "Why is education important to you?" - Video: introduction to course - Pre-test: ungraded with a focus on introducing the topics and the vocabulary needed for the course - Reading: Chapter 1 of <u>First the Foundation</u>  (Objectives 1, 2, 4)
2	Video: intro to week 2  Video: "Interview with the author, Stephen Kaufmann"  Reading: selections from <u>The Cause of Christian Education</u>	The biblical foundation for education	- Investigation: Collect and share 4 definitions of education and comment on which definitions identify with a biblical perspective and why - Forum discussion: Based on your learning this week, how does a biblical mandate for education differ from the secular vision for education?  (Objectives 1, 2, 4)
3	Video: Intro to week 3  Reading: school mission statement and student outcomes (as available)  Optional readings: "Rationality" from <u>The Book that Made Your World</u> by Vishal Mangalwadi Selection from <u>Why Educate?</u> edited by William Jeynes, 2007	A look at my school's purpose and vision for education	- Forum discussion: Write your own short summary of what education should be with biblical references and references to your readings this week. It may help to focus your summary on the questions: Who? What? How? or Why (for what purpose)?  (Objectives 3, 4)
4		Aligning my school's purpose with a biblical perspective	- Report: How would you evaluate your school's perspective on education? Does it promote the equipping of students to love and serve God as being central to its mission and how? - Peer-evaluation of report - Self-evaluation of learning

## Assessment

Task	Objective/s	Week	% Weight
Contribution to the course discussion forum by a) Creating forum posts that thoughtfully address the questions outlined in the course. b) Responding to the forum posts of other participants by making comments and asking reflective questions.	1, 2, 3, 4	Ongoing	20%
Investigation: share 4 definitions of education and comment on which definitions identify with a biblical perspective and how		2	10%
Assignment: summarize what education should focus on with biblical references	1, 2, 4	3	20%
Assignment: evaluate the educational perspective of my school and how it promotes the equipping of students to love and serve God Peer-assessment is also required for completion of this task	3, 5	4	30%
Self-assessment at the conclusion of the course	4	4	20%