

LIFEWISE ACADEMY



SCHOOL OFFICIALS FAQ

Legality

Q: How is LifeWise legal?

A: SCOTUS precedents and the law state that students may be released from public school during school hours for religious instruction, provided the program is: 1) voluntary with parental permission, 2) off school property, and 3) privately funded. In addition, school officials may not encourage or discourage students from participating in LifeWise.

Q: If a school offers LifeWise, won't that allow other programs to be offered as well?

A: Yes, it is possible other programs will spring up, and they should be allowed! We are confident in the valuable message of LifeWise and trust parents to choose the program that is best for their children.

Safety

Q: How do you ensure that students are safe before, during and after each class?

A: LifeWise has extensive safety and security protocols that often mirror the policies of local schools. All LifeWise employees and volunteers are background screened prior to participating with students. Background screenings can be provided to the school upon request.

Q: Does LifeWise have protocols for behavioral issues?

A: Yes, LifeWise teachers and volunteers are trained on a four-fold progression policy of *remind*, *relocate*, *remove* and *return* to the school. LifeWise takes great care to communicate clearly with school personnel regarding any behavioral issues.

Q: Who assumes liability for students during LifeWise?

A: LifeWise assumes liability for students the moment they exit the school. LifeWise carries liability insurance and enforces extensive safety and security protocols.

Operations

Q: How do parents elect to enroll their child in LifeWise?

A: Parents complete a LifeWise permission slip that is registered with the school office before their child may attend. LifeWise is completely voluntary; parents have the right to withdraw their child at any time for any reason.

Q: Will the attendance of students be reported to the school?

A: Attendance is taken for every LifeWise class. Attendance records are provided to school officials upon request.

Q: Will students who choose to go LifeWise fall behind academically or socially?

A: LifeWise is beneficial academically and socially as students focus on reading comprehension and many interpersonal character qualities. Independent research has shown that students who participate in RTR1 programs perform better academically and behaviorally.

Q: Who is responsible for teaching the students? How are they trained, certified and hired?

A: Teachers are vetted and hired by LifeWise. Teaching experience and certifications are considered as part of the hiring process. All teachers are background checked and receive appropriate training.

Facility/Transportation

Q: How will students get to the offsite location? Where will they meet?

A: Students will either walk under the supervision of volunteer chaperones or be driven by bus or van to the offsite location. Facilities may include churches, community centers, dedicated LifeWise buildings or other facilities.

Q: How do you provide transportation for students who might be in a wheelchair or handicapped? Is the building where they are meeting handicap accessible?

A: As a religious organization, LifeWise Academy is exempt from ADA guidelines, however, all local programs are encouraged to meet the needs of their community.

Q: How large are the class sizes?

A: LifeWise classes are usually the size of normal school classes, between 10 and 25 students.

Curriculum

Q: What are students taught at LifeWise Academy?

A: LifeWise Academy focuses on the central messages of the Bible and their character education implications. LifeWise focuses on the most foundational themes that speak to the issues common to all people. Every lesson focuses on one character trait (e.g., gratitude, humility, perseverance, etc.).

Schedule

Q: How does LifeWise fit into the school schedule?

A: The schedule varies greatly from school to school, depending on a variety of factors. Most schools integrate released time into their weekly specials rotation, providing students the option to attend LifeWise or library, tech or intervention time. Students will not miss mandatory/core curriculum courses.

Q: There is no time for LifeWise because we do not want to devalue our special classes.

A: LifeWise will work with school administrators to find the best place for LifeWise in the school day which does not necessarily need to be in the place of any existing special. In addition, we encourage schools to simply allow parents to choose what is best for their children.

Q: How does LifeWise compare with before- and after-school programs?

A: LifeWise is complementary to existing before- and after-school programs. The distinctive feature of LifeWise is that it operates during the school day, thereby engaging the students who are least likely to attend before- and after-school programs due to transportation, extracurriculars and other issues.