

How does it work?

LSCS services include three main dimensions:

1. The Diagnostic Visit

A team of trained consultants visit the school and its congregation for two to four days. During this time, consultants attempt to determine the strengths and challenges in the school, write a report and make recommendations for improving.

2. Follow-up Consultant Visit

A follow-up consultant, one of the diagnostic team members, visits the school within two months of the initial diagnostic visit. This one-day visit is designed to review and clarify the diagnostic visit report and initiate plans for addressing recommendations from the diagnostic visit.

3. Ministry Expert Consultant Visits

Two additional follow-up visits occur within 18 months of the initial diagnostic visit. For these visits, LSCS appoints a “ministry expert” consultant who has specific expertise to assist the school in addressing the recommendations from the diagnostic report. These one-day visits include discussions and planning with the various boards, committees, and church and school leaders for ongoing school improvement. If additional ministry expert consultant visits are desired (beyond the two follow-up visits), **the school and congregation are responsible for the expenses and fees related to these additional visits.**

The cost for LSCS services is \$500 (non-refundable) due with the application.

Any additional costs related to school or congregation changes or improvements must be borne by the school and/or its operating congregation.



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

School Ministry

1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295
888-THE LCMS (843-5267)
infocenter@lcms.org
www.lcms.org/schools

For more information, contact your district office — find contact information at www.lcms.org/districts — or the LCMS School Ministry office at 314-996-1294.

Revised 02/2014



Lutheran School Consulting Services



WHAT IS LUTHERAN SCHOOL CONSULTING SERVICES?

The purpose of Lutheran School Consulting Services (LSCS) is to strengthen and revitalize Lutheran schools so God's children are well served and His kingdom expanded. LSCS focuses on the school and its ministry. As schools are strengthened, so are congregations and their ministries.

How are schools and operating congregations selected?

Schools will be served that:

- Desire consulting assistance
- Can be helped through consulting services
- Will accept the consultants' recommendations
- Agree to work toward improving based on the recommendations received
- Have sufficient resources to accomplish needed change

Schools that may benefit include:

- Those facing challenges
- Those seeking to enhance their overall quality of ministry
- Those needing assistance to assess future ministry opportunities
- Those desiring to improve the overall quality of their educational product and programs

Who are the LSCS consultants?

LSCS consultants are experienced and capable Lutheran school leaders, LCMS district education executives and pastors of congregations with schools. Each consultant brings a specific skill set and knowledge. Consultants have been trained specifically to serve schools and congregations interested in improving but have had difficulty finding direction for such improvement in the past. Consultants volunteer their services to help schools improve.

How can we receive LSCS services?

Schools interested in LSCS should contact their LCMS district education executive, who will contact the LSCS director. Applications will be sent to the school and should be returned to LCMS School Ministry. Applications must be signed by the pastor, school administrator, board of education chair and the congregation chair.

Applications will be screened by the LCMS district and then selected by the LSCS director. Once approved, the LSCS director will assign an assessor, who will visit the school and determine if a positive outcome is possible through the LSCS process.

After the assessor's visit and consulting services are deemed necessary, the school must submit:

- Its final budget and expenditures for the past three years
- Enrollment by grade for the last five years
- A two-page description of why LSCS is requested
- How the school hopes to benefit
- A description of the primary difficulties, problems or frustrations at the school

The LSCS diagnostic team may request additional information.

Consultants who are best equipped to serve the school will be assigned.

