

lished recently are in this group. There are fewer state regulations on this type because of the favored position which the church has with the state. In recent years, some parent-controlled schools have had court cases with the state, while similar schools owned by local churches were not involved in litigation.

THE PRIVATELY-OWNED SCHOOL

This school is owned and operated by an individual, by a family, or by a group of people. It may or may not have a board. If it has a board, that board is usually advisory only, for the school is really run by the owner or owners. Unlike the first two types, this school may be a proprietary school. Property belongs to the owner. Policies, procedures, and standards are established by the owner.

Each organizational pattern has advantages and disadvantages. Since organizational structure has lasting consequences, it is important for steering committees of proposed schools to investigate organizational patterns carefully. Whatever the organizational pattern, the essentials for quality education are the same for any Christian school.

ESSENTIALS FOR QUALITY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian school administrators accept the responsibility to operate sound academic schools. To put it simply, no child should have to take an academic penalty to get a Christian school education. A second-rate education, though based on the true philosophy of life, is unacceptable.

The following essentials for quality education are each important; thus no attempt has been made to rank them in order of importance: (1) a primary desire to see God honored through the education offered to children and young people; (2) a clear understanding of the philosophy, purposes, and objectives of the Christian school; (3) a principal or headmaster with leadership ability who is qualified spiritually, academically, biblically, and administratively to be the chief administrator; (4) a school board which works vigorously within clearly defined responsibilities; (5) a qualified faculty, born again, trained in the academic field for which each is hired, trained in Bible; (6) a low turnover rate in the faculty and in the administration; (7) a program of prayer by faculty, students, teachers, parents, and board which permeates the entire school program; (8) a financial stability which provides operational and capital improvement funds; (9) a selected student body whose educational needs can be met by the school; (10) a large enough enrollment to keep teachers from being spread too thin, for too many lesson preparations are required when several grades are combined in the same classroom; (11) adequate salaries to allow teachers and administrators to work without constant worry about the financial status of their families; (12) complete trust that God will do everything that He has promised in His Word, and the willingness to take steps by faith by