

OPEN LETTER FROM THE LCMS



16 January, 2026

Dear HKIS Community,

Warm greetings from the global LCMS family as we step into a new year together.

HKIS families have been part of the LCMS community since we founded the school nearly sixty years ago, and we deeply value the relationship we share with you.

I am very aware that recent legal developments may have felt sudden and created some concern about the future.

As we start this new year, I wanted to write to you personally to offer reassurance – and express my heartfelt gratitude to the generations of families who have helped make HKIS the warm, vibrant community of learning that it is today.

Student care and wellbeing is our priority

As a father and grandfather, I deeply understand that your foremost priority is the wellbeing and education of your children. With more than 175,000 students enrolled in LCMS schools worldwide, student care and wellbeing are at the absolute heart of every decision we make.

After years of prayerful reflection and exhaustive efforts to privately address the issues at HKIS, we reluctantly formed the view that the current situation was untenable.

As a Christian charity, we deeply regret that we were left with no option but to take legal action to safeguard the school's reputation and future – and to preserve the LCMS principles and values which have guided HKIS to remarkable success over generations of our stewardship.

Litigation is our last choice

The litigation comes down to one simple thing: keeping promises.

In our view, it is a straightforward case about breach of contract between the LCMS and HKISAL (the management company we entrusted with the school).

The 27 alleged breaches of contract span HKIS leadership, staffing, curriculum, operations, values, governance, transparency and finances.

Our goal is to resolve these issues and restore integrity and confidence in the school's future.

The LCMS simply asks HKISAL to honor the contract it signed. If HKISAL does this, the litigation and uncertainty will end.

On the other hand, if HKISAL does not do so and is found to have breached the contract, this could result in the permanent closure of HKIS, or a fundamental reform and transformation of the way HKIS operates.

Unfortunately, HKISAL has not yet taken any steps to address our concerns, and has left HKIS exposed to the risks of litigation.

Our promise to HKIS families

When we established HKIS in the 1960s, the LCMS made a promise to the people and Government of Hong Kong: to operate a world-class Lutheran school in Hong Kong. This fundamental promise is even written into the land leases for the HKIS Repulse Bay Campus.

We remain steadfast in our promise – a commitment rooted in faith and woven into the very foundations of HKIS.

If HKISAL refuses to comply with our contract and HKIS is removed from one or both campuses, we will then establish Hong Kong Pacific School (HKPS) in its place, subject to EDB approval.

The LCMS is willing to make the investment in HKPS for the simple reason that HKIS students are – and always have been – our responsibility and priority.

Rest assured that HKIS families will have priority admission if we open HKPS – and regardless of the outcome, our priority will always be your children's education and wellbeing.

While we earnestly hope establishing HKPS will not be necessary, our preparations for HKPS are a prudent step reflecting our commitment to continuity and care – and to live up to our pledge and mission.

The benefits of an LCMS education

Our calling is to provide excellence in education to every child. This commitment goes beyond the physical campus; it encompasses developing character, instilling values and fostering a healthy mindset in a nurturing, supportive and inclusive environment.

The benefits of an LCMS education last a lifetime, setting up children for future success far beyond the classroom. Alumni of LCMS schools are world-renowned scientists, Grammy-winning musicians, Super Bowl champions, leading businessmen and women, prominent legislators, Olympic gold medalists and foremost philanthropists.

Perhaps more importantly, graduates of LCMS schools carry forward a foundation of faith, guided by Christian values, to live purposeful and impactful lives.

The future of HKIS

HKIS is your school and our school. Your voices matter to us.

I warmly invite your thoughts and questions as we build the future together. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at christian@hongkongpacificschool.com.

I look forward to meeting with the HKIS community in Hong Kong later this year.

Thank you for your trust and partnership as we navigate this together.

In Christ,



Christian Preus
Chairman of the Board of Directors
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod