

Pharos Microschool Launch Task Force Update – July 2026

The Pharos Microschool Launch Task Force met on Wednesday, July 1, 2026, to review progress and prepare for the upcoming school year. The meeting opened and closed with prayer, reflecting the group's commitment to building a Christ-centered learning community.

Fundraising Momentum

Several initiatives are underway to support the new microschool. The 1-100 Envelope Fundraiser wall remains active, with expectations that participation will increase once classes begin. Upcoming and recent events include:

- A Senator's Game Fundraiser on July 24, where Pharos will receive \$4 for each ticket purchased (seven tickets sold to date).
- We have the results from the June 10 Texas Roadhouse fundraiser. We raised \$210.69 for Pharos through this endeavor.
- Another Texas Roadhouse event is planned for August, this time paired with a bake sale.
- A sandwich sale with R&K Subs has been postponed until fall so students and families can participate.
- Generous ongoing support includes homemade pies and handmade jewelry donations, both enthusiastically approved for fundraising efforts.

Administrative and Compliance Progress

Significant behind-the-scenes work continues:

- The application for federal tax-exempt status (Form 1023) is moving forward after signing an engagement letter with professional support. Estimated cost is approximately \$1,700.
- Key policies were approved, including a Child Protection Background Check Policy, Disclosure Statement, and requirements for Sexual Abuse Prevention and Reporting Training. Clearances will be renewed every five years, and these documents will be posted on the website.
- An updated Non-Employee Teacher Contract was approved (adjusted to 28 weeks).
- The Code of Conduct received refinements, including updated procedures for student issues and new language emphasizing high moral standards, Biblical consistency, and refraining from dissension.
- Handbook revisions are in progress, particularly around refunds, fees, deadlines, and a new School Cancellation Policy.

On the operations side, Excel workbooks are now in use for accounting tracking. Payroll services will be evaluated through a professional provider when needed, with flexible options for contract employees in the interim. A dedicated Pharos bank account is being established, along with plans for online giving through Vanco. Website improvements are also being explored, with a volunteer offer under consideration.

School and Program Updates

Preparations for opening day are advancing steadily:

- Classes are expected to go live on the website around mid-July.
- A current list includes 13 classes serving various age groups.
- The school calendar was reviewed: Classes begin Monday, August 31, with 28 weeks total (14 weeks per semester).

The group discussed welcoming families who are not currently active in a Christian church community. Families will be asked to agree to the Statement of Faith, with an opportunity to note any disagreements. The website language has been updated to encourage active participation in a Christian church rather than requiring it, ensuring alignment between policy and practice.

Financial Snapshot

As of June 30, 2026, Pharos funds total \$19,264.56.

Looking Ahead

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 6:00 PM. Items for continued discussion include finalizing the school calendar, classes, applications, fees, and advertising.

Thank you to everyone contributing time, resources, and prayers toward launching Pharos Microschool. This is an exciting season as we prepare to provide a high-quality, faith-based educational option for families. Stay tuned for more updates, class registrations, and ways to get involved!