

WRISA

ACCREDITATION NEWS

Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation

The Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation serves school communities through standards of excellence that promote continuous improvement.

Volume XVIII, 2012
Beatrice Weiland, Editor

Board Accredits 244 Schools

At the September 13th and November 15, 2012 meetings, the board of directors accredited 244 schools. No schools were denied accreditation.

The board of directors is the sole authority in determining the accreditation status of a school. Its decision may differ from the "Recommendation" for accreditation made by a Visiting Team.

To view the complete list of schools, visit the WRISA website: www.wrisa.net after December 31, 2012 and click on the "WRISA Schools" link.

Schools Accepted into Candidacy

The following schools applied for Candidacy, met the WRISA pre-accreditation criteria, and were accepted as Candidates:

Believers in Christ Academy - Milwaukee
Grace Christian Academy - West Allis
Heritage Christian Schools - Brookfield
Parklawn Christian Leadership Academy - Milwaukee
St. Edward School - Appleton
Wells Street Academy - Milwaukee
Wisconsin College Preparatory Academy - Milwaukee

Schools Accredited for the First Time

After successfully completing an intensive Self Study and hosting a Visiting Team, the following Candidate schools were recommended for and were granted initial accreditation by the board of directors.

WRISA congratulates:
Most Precious Blood School - New London
Sherman Park Lutheran School - Milwaukee
St. Coletta Day School of Milwaukee - Milwaukee
St. Mary School - Hilbert
St. Peter School - Tilden

Schools Accredited for a Subsequent Cycle of Accreditation

Congratulations to the following schools that completed a seven year cycle of accreditation. After conducting a new Self Study, these schools hosted a Site Visit and submitted new Visiting Team documents and Long Range Plan to the board of directors.

Consolidated Parochial Elementary School – Mount Calvary
Holy Family Parish School - Whitefish Bay
Messmer Preparatory Catholic School - Milwaukee
St. Anthony School - Menomonee Falls
St. Anthony School - Milwaukee
St. Joseph School - Wauwatosa
St. Jude the Apostle School - Wauwatosa
St. Lucy School - Racine
St. Mary School - Menomonee Falls
St. Rose and St. Leo Catholic School - Milwaukee
Waukesha Catholic School System - Waukesha
Racine Christian School - Racine
Holy Cross School - Green Bay
Holy Family School - Green Bay
St. Peter the Fisherman School - Two Rivers
Holy Family Catholic School - Arcadia
St. Joseph School - Menomonie
St. Joseph School - Stratford
St. Paul Parochial School - Mosinee
Saints Andrew-Thomas School - Potosi
St. Charles School - Cassville
St. James School - Madison
St. John School - Waunakee
St. Joseph School - Baraboo
St. Mary School - Janesville
St. Peter Catholic School - Middleton
St. Francis de Sales School - Spooner
Atlas Preparatory Academy K4-12 - Milwaukee
Luther High School - Onalaska
Trinity Lutheran School – Waukesha

Standard Quality Indicators Undergo Revision

The board of directors voted to revise several Standard Quality Indicators (SQIs). Changes will be reflected in the online documents on 1/1/2013. Changes will go into effect for the 2013-14 school year. Site Visits taking place during the 2013-14 school year will use the Self Study documents that the schools used when they conducted their Self Study.

Standard A – Early Childhood Program will be eliminated entirely. Since Early Childhood Programs are part of the total educational program of a school, they will be included in the WRISA Standards with Quality Indicators for the school as a whole.

SQI 5.04 will read:

****Qualifications/Degree/Instructional Staff:**
Instructional personnel have earned a Bachelor's degree that includes 12 semester hours of credit in teacher education as part of or in addition to the degree, or is actively working toward meeting this requirement within three years. *Early childhood personnel and elementary art, music, physical education, technology, and foreign language teachers refer to Quality Indicator 5.07. (4) (Changed 9/13/2012. Effective 2013-14.)

SQI 5.07 will read:

Qualifications/Specialized Personnel: Counselors; media specialists; instructors of art, music, physical education, technology, and foreign language in the elementary grades; and non-teaching professional personnel have earned a degree in their assigned field. (2)

Teachers in Early Childhood (three and four year old early childhood programs) have earned an associate of arts degree, Child Development Associate (CDA) level on The Registry, or bachelor's degree that includes 12 semester hours of credit in teacher education as part of or in addition to the degree. In regards to a Bachelor of Art degree, an individual must be actively working toward meeting this requirement within three years. (4) (Changed 9/13/2012. Effective 2013-14.)

SQI 6.08 combined with 7.02 which will read:

Evaluation of Materials and Resources:
Administrator establishes a policy and procedure for the evaluation of materials and resources that include the acquisition of new items, review of current collection, and disposal of outdated materials. The administrator, in cooperation with the professional instructional staff, has a process and cycle to review the instructional resources and materials which are correlated with the various

subject areas in the curriculum document. (Changed 9/13/2012. Effective 2013-14.)

SQI 7.03 will read:

Instructional Media and Technology: Administrator provides for the appropriate access to and distribution of a comprehensive collection of print, multi-media, and instructional technological resources. (Changed 9/13/2012. Effective 2013-14.)

Standard 7 Glossary will read:

Comprehensive Collection: A balanced and current collection that is student-oriented and serves all grade, ability, and/or subject areas and may include a basic book collection. Books and periodicals on electronic media may be counted for meeting this requirement. The materials collection shall include electronic and other technological formats in support of the curriculum. (Changed 9/13/2012. Effective 2013-14.)

SQI 6.13 combined with SQI 8.05 which will read:

****Student Services Records: Administrator oversees the establishment and maintenance of a secure and accurate student service record system. The administrator, in cooperation with the professional instructional staff and paraprofessional staff, establishes and maintains a file (paper or electronic) which contains curricular documentation and other information required by law and the operation of a quality educational program. (Changed 9/13/2012. Effective 2013-14.)**

Standard C.03 will read:

Transformative Faith Community: The school community will actively promote faith-to-action service and social justice experiences according to the tenets of their religion or denomination. (Changed 9/13/2012. Effective 2013-14.)

Documentation:

(Report) narrative of compliance to include: 1. statement of how students are being given opportunities to study social justice issues; 2. statement on how students are being challenged to become active in both the religion/denomination's and the broader civic community's social justice needs
(Onsite) evidence

By-laws

Amend Article II, Section 1 of the by-laws to read:
Any religious or independent school in Wisconsin that is accredited by WRISA is considered a member of the association. **See the WRISA handbook for the process and requirements for accreditation. (Effective immediately.)

End of the Year Report

WRISA currently accredits 244 schools serving more than 55,000 students throughout the great State of Wisconsin. In addition, there are 17 schools in candidacy.

WRISA serves eight 9-12 high schools, two 7-12 high schools, four middle schools, and 12 K3, K4, or K5 - 12th grade schools. The remaining schools are elementary.

For the 2011-12 fiscal year, WRISA had approximately \$49,940.00 in expenses, and collected \$54,866.00 in fees. It had approximately \$17,628.00 in savings and \$17,633.00 in the checking account at the end of the fiscal year.

WRISA has one part time employee, the Executive Director, and maintains an office to conduct its business. The Executive Director works under the direction of the WRISA board of directors and reports directly to the president of the board. Responsibilities include: representing WRISA at all local and national meetings and reporting on accreditation activities from other organizations; serving on the executive committee of the National Federation of Non-Public School State Accrediting Associations (NFNSAA); conducting relevant professional development support for WRISA members when requested; promoting and marketing the WRISA organization; acting as a resource to members of the board of directors; overseeing the daily operations of the WRISA's state office; preparing all correspondence, reports, and mailings; maintaining all accreditation files for schools and the WRISA website; organizing board meetings; gathering and reporting on accreditation data and recommending policy and procedures to the board; serving as a resource to principals; publishing and distributing the annual newsletter; carrying on and maintaining the day-to-day management of finances; networking with other accrediting organizations; developing the website and online documents; and assisting the representative for independent schools.

The State of Wisconsin has selected WRISA as one of the few organizations to pre-accredit schools for the voucher program. The State of Wisconsin also approves WRISA for accrediting voucher schools.

The Department of Homeland Security recognizes WRISA accredited schools that seek to enroll non-immigrant foreign students under the 'Student and Exchange Visitor Program' (SEVP) and

'Student/Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) certification process.

The Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA) recognizes WRISA accredited schools that seek low cost capital financing for building and equipment improvement and expansion needs. To learn more about financing options, consider attending "Insight into Capital Finance" on Monday, March 18, 2013 at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha, WI. Go to www.whefa.com.

The National Honor Society (NHS) and the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Council recognize WRISA accreditation.

WRISA is a member of the National Federation of Non-Public School State Accrediting Associations.

WCRIS Leadership Conference Invitation

The Wisconsin Council for Religious and Independent Schools will host its Sixth Biannual Leadership Conference on February 8, 2013 at the Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee, WI. Keynote speaker is Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Executive Director of the Curriculum Mapping Institute and President of Curriculum Designers, Inc. an internationally recognized expert in the fields of Curriculum and instruction and author of six books, including *Curriculum 21: Essential Education for a Changing World*.

The conference also features engaging workshops. To register online, go to www.wcris.org.

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