

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 XX, 2014
Beatrice Weiland, Editor

Board Accredits 247 Schools

At the September 5th and November 11, 2014 meetings, the Board of Directors accredited 247 schools. Two schools voluntarily withdrew their membership.

To view the complete list of schools, visit the WRISA website: www.wrisa.net after December 31, 2014 and click on the "WRISA Schools" link.

10 Schools Accredited for the First Time

The following schools completed the Self Study and Site Visit processes qualifying them for accreditation and membership in WRISA. Congratulations!

Brookfield Christian School - Brookfield
Cross Trainers Academy – Milwaukee
El Puente High School – Milwaukee
Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy - Milwaukee
Holy Redeemer Christian Academy - Milwaukee
Mt. Pleasant Renaissance School - Racine
NOVA – Milwaukee
Sheboygan County Christian High School - Sheboygan
Starr Academy - New London
St. Alphonsus School – New Munster
St. Matthew School – Campbellsport

Schools Accepted into Candidacy

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

Holy Family School – Waterloo
A Promise of Hope Academy – Milwaukee
Divine Destiny School – Milwaukee
Fond du Lac Christian School – Fond du Lac
Hudson Institute of Scholars - Milwaukee
Lighthouse Christian School – Madison
Open Wings Learning Community – Kenosha
Shining Star Christian Schools – Milwaukee
St. Mary's School – Marathon

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, and hosting a Site Visit, they submitted new Visiting Team Reports and Long Range Plans to the Board of Directors.

Ceria M. Travis Academy - Milwaukee
EAGLE School of Madison – Madison
Holy Spirit School – Appleton
Jared C. Bruce Academy – Milwaukee
LUMIN Schools – Milwaukee, Racine
St. Bernard School - Watertown
St. Bridget School - River Falls
St. Edward School - Appleton
St. Francis Solanus School - Stone Lake
St. John the Baptist School – Princeton
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Grade School - Sparta
St. Joseph School - Prescott
St. Maria Goretti School – Madison
St. Peter School - East Troy
St. Peter School – Slinger
St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School - Milwaukee
St. Rose of Lima School - Cuba City
St. Thomas Aquinas School - Waterford
Travis Technology High School - Milwaukee
Trinity Lutheran School - Mequon
Trinity Lutheran School - Kaukauna
Trinity-St. Luke's Lutheran School – Watertown

National Recognitions and Partnerships

WRISA is a member of the **National Federation of Non-Public School State Accrediting Associations (NFSSAA)**. This federation is composed of state accrediting associations that have a common purpose of promoting high quality non-public education for the families they serve. Together, they serve more than 200,000 children. The federation meets annually to share information relevant to their own state chapters and collaborate on common issues. (www.nfssaa.com)

The **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** recognizes WRISA accredited schools seeking to enroll non-immigrant foreign students under the **'Student**

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

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

End of the Year Report

Currently, WRISA accredits 247 schools serving more than 54,000 students throughout the great State of Wisconsin. In addition, there are 24 candidate schools with approximately 3,600 children enrolled. WRISA accredits elementary, middle, high schools and elementary through high school combinations. The smallest school has 10 children enrolled. The largest enrollment exceeds 1,800 students.

WRISA's financial position remains stable. Fee increases are not expected at this time. For the 2014-15 fiscal year, WRISA has a projected income of \$53,575.00 which comes from annual membership fees, candidate application and progress report fees, pre-accreditation application fees and dividends. Income is used to cover expenses for maintaining the WRISA office and website, purchasing supplies, reimbursing work-related expenses; conducting business; and paying wages for one part time employee, the executive director.

WRISA is approved by the State of Wisconsin to pre-accredit and accredit schools for the parental choice program. Currently, WRISA accredits 77 parental choice schools and has 14 in candidacy.

The Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA) recognizes WRISA accredited schools that are looking for low cost capital financing for building and equipment improvement, and expansion needs. This includes old loans as well as new funding. To learn more about financing options go to www.whefa.com.

WCRIS Leadership Conference Invitation

The Wisconsin Council for Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS) will host its Eighth Annual Leadership Conference –'Leading for Learning: Our Children, Their Future, Our Imperative' on February 6, 2015 in Madison. **This conference is a Title IIA-eligible event.** Register at: <http://www.wcris.org/2015registration.cfm>

Keynote Speaker, Mark Siegel, JD, an expert in 'proficiency-based education will kick off the conference with 'The Big Shift: From Old School to New

School' focusing on individualized and personalized classrooms.

Other workshops include:

Principal Voucher Panel – Choice School Principals

This Q&A features principals from Choice schools who will speak candidly about what it is like to be part of the parental choice program.

Technology Trends with Low-Cost Solutions – Sue Nelson and Laurie Yingling will discuss future trends to guide the effective integration of technology to create student-centered learning environments.

Making Learning Personal – Dr. Karen Wendorf-Heldt will introduce participants to personalized learning.

Challenges and Threats to the Existence of Private Schools – Mark Siegel, JD will discuss strategies to keep private schools alive and vital parts of the education landscape.

School Marketing on a Shoestring Budget – Tracey Markut and Michael Oldenburg will present cost-effective, low-budget marketing strategies that that will help jump start an effective marketing plan.

Planning for Political Change – Matthew Kussow will discuss political changes on the horizon and the implications for long range planning.

Change to Board of Directors

WRISA thanks Dr. Susan Holman for serving as the representative on the WRISA Board of Directors for the Diocese of La Crosse. WRISA welcomes Tom Reichenbacher, assistant superintendent for the Diocese of La Crosse as the new representative.

Board of Directors

Helen Gilles, Ph.D.	President/Independent Schools
David Schroeder	Vice-President/WELS
Peggy Schoenfuss	Treasurer/Diocese of Superior
Michael Lancaster, Ed.S.	Secretary/Diocese of Madison
Kyle Heuver	Christian Schools International
Thomas Reichenbacher	Diocese of La Crosse
Dorothy Travis-Moore Ph.D.	At-Large
John Reetz	Diocese of Green Bay
John Soper, Ed.S.	Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Beatrice Weiland	Executive Director

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Discriminatory practices based on race, ethnicity, or national origin are not used in admissions or other services. Church affiliated schools may give preference to members of their faith as allowed by law.