

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.

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Beatrice Weiland, Editor

Board Accredits 254 Schools

At the September 19-20, 2006, annual review meeting, the WRISA Board of Directors met in Madison to accredit schools. The Board makes the final decision regarding the accreditation status of a school. This decision may differ from the "Recommendation" for accreditation made by the visiting team.

The Board fully accredited 249 schools and accredited with provision five schools for a total of 254 schools. To view the complete list of schools, go to www.wrisa.net and click on the "WRISA Schools" link.

New Members Join Board

The WRISA Board of Directors welcomes three new members; Peggy Schoenfuss, jurisdictional representative for the Diocese of Superior; Anita Harris, jurisdictional representative for the Diocese of LaCrosse; David Bartelt, member at-large, serves as superintendent at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School.

The Board of Directors expresses its appreciation to Phyllis Schlagel for serving on the Board of Directors for a total of 12 years.

Do You Know?

254 religious and independent schools serving more than **51,000 children** throughout the State of Wisconsin are accredited by WRISA.

Another **33** religious and Independent schools serving more than **6,000 children** are candidate schools with WRISA.

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 their initial accreditation by the Board of Directors. Congratulations to:

Crown of Life Lutheran School, Hubertus
Holy Family Catholic School, Arcadia
Jared C. Bruce Academy, Milwaukee
Northwest Lutheran School, Milwaukee
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Grade School, Sparta
St. John Nepomucene School, Little Chute
Trinity Lutheran Elementary School, Hudson
Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee

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 documents to the Board of Directors.

Edgewood Campus School - Madison
Holy Wisdom Academy - Milwaukee
Port Washington Catholic School - Port Washington

Providence Catholic School – Kansasville
Shepherd of the Hills School – Eden
St. Adalbert School – Milwaukee
St. Catherine School – Milwaukee
St. John Kanty School – Milwaukee
St. John the Baptist School - Jefferson
St. Josaphat School – Milwaukee
St. Joseph School - Menomonie
St. Mary Parish School – Mayville
St. Mary School – Milwaukee
St. Mary School – New Richmond
St. Monica School – Whitefish Bay
St. Philip Neri School – Milwaukee
St. Sebastian School – Milwaukee
St. Sebastian School – Sturtevant

WRISA Schools Eligible for WHEFA Grants

The Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA) serves as the conduit for private educational and health institutions to access low cost capital financing for both new and existing construction loans.

For more information regarding WHEFA please go to www.whefa.com.

Board Revises Standards and Self Study Document

In an effort to improve the accreditation process and promote ongoing school improvement, the Board of Directors has revised the Standards. The result is a set of Standards that are more streamlined and current to today's educational setting. Standards include "Quality Indicators" that serve as a barometer for how well the school meets the intent of the Standard. The Board also developed two additional Standards for schools with Early Childhood and/or Extended Day Programs.

The new Standards and Quality Indicators serve as the self study instrument, and will be the tool used by the visiting team to evaluate a school's compliance with WRISA

standards.

The new Standard statements. Member and Candidate schools will be able to access the Standards with Quality Indicators online at www.wrisa.net in the near future.

STANDARD 1: Foundational Statements

Principle/Standard: The identity and unique purpose of a religious and independent school is rooted in its foundational statements that specify its vision, mission, and core values. The foundational statements are cooperatively identified, clearly stated, and mutually accepted, and direct the learner throughout his/her educational and formational experience.

STANDARD 2: Communication and Community Relationships

Principle/Standard: Members of the school community have developed, implemented, and communicated an effective school-community interaction plan to: (1) strengthen the school and community; (2) facilitate support for the school; and (3) provide opportunities for parent education and participation in the activities of the school that encourages cooperation and collaboration among home, school, religious, and civic communities.

STANDARD 3: The Environment for Teaching and Learning *The Climate of the School and Classroom*

Principle/Standard: School climate may be defined as the combination of those qualities of the school environment that affect the attitudes, behavior, and achievement of the people involved in its operation – students, parent/family members, administrators, faculty, staff, governance/consultative body, and members of the faith and civic communities. In quality schools, the adults and students care for, respect, and trust one another.

School personnel believe that all children are able to learn. Students and staff expect to be successful as life-long learners. Morale is high and social and academic growth are continuous. The environment for teaching and learning is the lived experience of the foundational statements of the school.

STANDARD 4: Leadership and Governance

The Responsibility for the Educational and Organizational Effectiveness of the School

Principle/Standard: An effective school community operates under the guidance of a governing/consultative body and the leadership and management of an administrator. The members of this body and the administrator fulfill their roles and responsibilities in a manner that supports the foundational statements of the school community.

STANDARD 5: Resources

Human (5.01), Financial (5.20), Physical (5.30)

Principle/Standard: An effective school has a qualified staff supported by the financial and physical resources necessary to advance the foundational statements of the school. A professional and competent staff is provided in sufficient numbers to support student learning. Professional development and support services are aligned with quality planning needed to accomplish the school improvement plans of the school.

STANDARD 6: Learning and Teaching Curriculum, Assessment, Strategies

Principle/Standard: An effective learning environment is the hallmark of a religious and independent school in so far as it provides a guaranteed and viable curriculum, an assessment program which reports the proficiency and achievement of the learner, and research-based instructional strategies which foster active meaningful engagement in learning. The professional instructional staff, under the guidance of the administrator,

develops this learning environment which is based on standards for content, disposition, and process so as to encourage the learner's development of critical and creative thinking skills, problem solving ability, and performance skills.

Standard 7: Materials and Resources for Learning

Instructional Media and Technology

Principle/Standard: An effective learning environment in a religious and independent school is enhanced with materials and resources for the learner which includes instructional media and technology.

Standard 8: Student Services to Support the Learner

Principle/Standard: The intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth and development of the learner are supported by all members of the school community. Student services are provided for all learners with the understanding that each learner is given opportunities to develop his/her abilities and talents.

STANDARD 9: School Improvement Program

Strategies and Tools for Improving the School

Principle/Standard: The members of the school community plan to ensure the continuous effectiveness of the school and its programs for students.

STANDARD A: Early Childhood Education

Principle/Standard: An early childhood program reflects a developmentally appropriate learning environment. This environment is both age and individual appropriate.

STANDARD B: Extended Day

Principle/Standard: The role of the school as an advocate of quality extended school day

programs is paramount. The stakeholders in the school are able to provide leadership in establishing communication, cooperation, collaboration, and participation among families, school-day and extended day program staff to establish and improve learning opportunities for children and maximize their opportunities for success.

Q & A for Online Forms

Spell-check has been added to the Long Range Plan reporting form.

How do I get a username and password, or what should I do if I have a username and password but can't remember them?

Contact your jurisdictional rep or the WRISA executive director.

How do I access the new online forms?

Go to: www.wrisa.net. Click on the "Annual Report Packet" link. Then go to [Click here to access the Annual Report Packet.](#)

I filled in the circles on the Standards Checklist but they didn't print. What should I do?

This seems to be a problem related to individual computers and printers. Printing forms on a different printer usually resolves the problem. Make sure your "Toner Saver" is not turned on. As a last resort, fill in the circles by hand.

On the Long Range Plan, how can I add years to the "Target" column?

Contact the WRISA executive director.

How do I change my login information?

Contact the WRISA executive director.

When I filled in the information on the Staff Qualifications page all the columns are filled in, but when I print it, all or part

of the last column is missing. What should I do?

If text appears too large and/or doesn't fit on the page do the following: on the toolbar, go to View, click on Text Size, and then click on Smaller. You can also change the size of your margins by going to the File dropdown menu on the toolbar, click on Page Set-up and widen or lessen your left and right margins.

Should I continue to keep the Standard Indicator number in the "Standard" column on the Long Range Plan once I have completed the goal?

No. Once a goal that was marked "No" on the Standards Checklist has been completed, remove the number from the "Standard" column. Be sure to include an explanation in the "Explanation" column on what was done to accomplish the goal.

When I go to print the Staff Qualifications page, it won't print. Why?

Each field on the Staff Report is only allowed a certain number of characters. See if limiting the amount of information you put in each text box will allow you to save. For instance, the "Grade or Content" field only allows 30 characters. If you type in "Grade 1" or "Science" that will work, but an entry such as "Science, Math, Biology, etc...." may cause an error.

If you encounter problems with the new online forms, WRISA wants to know. Please send the details of the problem to wrisa@wrisa.net. Thank you.

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