

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 XIX, 2013
Beatrice Weiland, Editor

Board Accredits 237 Schools

At the September 12th and December 5th, 2013 meetings, the board of directors accredited 237 schools. One school was 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, 2013 and click on the "WRISA Schools" link.

Schools Accepted into Candidacy

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

Aquinas Academy – Menomonee Falls
Cross Trainers Academy – Milwaukee
EverGreen Elementary - Racine
Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy – Milwaukee
Holy Redeemer Christian Academy – Milwaukee
Imani Academy – Milwaukee
Jo's Learning Academy - Milwaukee
Rock County Christian School – Beloit/Janesville
St. Alphonsus School – New Munster
St. Clare Catholic School – Wrightstown
St. Mary's of the Assumption School – Richland Center
St. Matthew School - Campbellsport
St. Rose/St. Mary's School - Clintonville
United To Serve Academy – Milwaukee

Currently, there are 27 candidate schools.

Extended Day Standard to be Eliminated

At the May 2013 meeting of the board of directors, board members voted to eliminate the 'optional' Extended Day Standard. Extended Day Programs differ by definition from After School programs.

After School programs are considered part of a school's total educational program and should be assessed

accordingly. Pertinent Standard Quality Indicators include but are not limited to: Standard Quality Indicators 1.04, 3.08, 4.08, 4.09, 5.09, 5.13, and 5.16. Changes will be reflected in the online documents after 2/1/2014. Changes will go into effect for the 2014-15 school year. Site Visits taking place during the 2014-15 school year will use the Self Study document that the school used when it conducted its Self Study.

Schools Accredited for a Subsequent Cycle of Accreditation

Congratulations to the 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.

Clara Mohammed School - Milwaukee
Crown of Life Lutheran School - Hubertus
Edgewood Campus School Inc. - Madison
Heritage Christian Schools – Brookfield
Holy Wisdom Academy – Milwaukee
Our Lady of the Assumption School – Beloit
Peace Lutheran School - Hartford
Providence Catholic School - Union Grove
Sacred Heart School - Reedsburg
Sheboygan Christian School – Sheboygan
Shepherd of the Hills School - Eden
St. Adalbert School - Milwaukee
St. Catherine School - Milwaukee
St. Charles Borromeo School - Milwaukee
St. John Kanty School – Milwaukee
St. John Nepomucene School - Little Chute
St. John the Baptist School - Jefferson
St. Josaphat School – Milwaukee
St. Mark Ev. Lutheran School - Green Bay
St. Mary Parish School - Hales Corners
St. Mary School – Mayville
St. Mary School - New Richmond
St. Mary School - Tomah
St. Matthias School - Milwaukee
St. Monica School - Whitefish Bay
St. Sebastian School – Milwaukee
Trinity Academy - Hudson
Wisconsin Lutheran High School – Milwaukee

WCRIS Leadership Conference Invitation

The Wisconsin Council for Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS) will host its Seventh Annual Leadership Conference – Leading for Learning: Our Hope, Our Future on February 7, 2014 at the Oshkosh Convention Center, 1 North Main Street, Oshkosh, WI. Register online today at:
www.wcris.org/2014AttendeeRegistration.cfm

Dr. Robyn Jackson is the Keynote speaker. Dr. Jackson helps teachers and administrators understand the principles of mastery teaching and shows them how to apply these principles in order to help every student succeed. As a former high school English teacher and middle school administrator she refined these principles on her own journey to become a master teacher. Dr. Jackson is a best-selling author, internationally recognized keynote speaker, and professional developer. She provides step-by-step advice on how to use these same principles to become or help others become master teachers. She started Mindsteps Inc., a professional development firm located in Washington, DC to provide the right kind of practice for teachers and the administrators who lead them.

Dr. Jackson is the author of nine books including “Never Work Harder Than Your Students” and “Never Underestimate Your Teachers”. The conference also features engaging workshops.

The Conference is a Title IIA-eligible event.

End of the Year Report

WRISA currently accredits 237 schools serving more than 54,400 students throughout the great State of Wisconsin. In addition, there are 27 candidate schools with approximately 3,650 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.

Thanks to re-structuring the fee schedule, WRISA’s financial position has improved. Fee increases are not expected at this time. For the 2013-14 fiscal year, WRISA has a projected income of \$54,745.00 which comes from annual membership fees, candidate application and progress report fees, pre-accreditation application fees and dividends. Income is used to maintain the WRISA office and website; purchase supplies; reimburse work-related expenses; conduct business; and cover wages for one part time employee, the executive director.

The State of Wisconsin has selected WRISA as one of the few organizations to pre-accredit schools for the

parental choice program. The State of Wisconsin also approves WRISA for accrediting parental choice schools. Currently, WRISA accredits 63 parental choice schools and has 15 in candidacy.

The Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA) recognizes WRISA accredited schools who seek 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.

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 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. 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.nfnssaa.com)

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