



Canadian
Accredited
Independent
Schools

Accreditation Guidelines

Overview of the CAIS Accreditation Process

In Canada, education is provincially mandated, and CAIS Schools are required to meet Ministry requirements. However, CAIS schools provide more. Our National Standards and Procedures are congruent with the internationally accepted criteria and model core standards adopted by the NAIS International Commission on Accreditation and updated annually based on current research and exceptional practices. The Standards Council of the Board reviews and approves all changes to the Accreditation Guidelines.

The process includes an Internal Evaluation conducted by all members of the school itself; this process contributes to the school's commitment to excellence and on-going improvement. The essence of this process is that the school examines all aspects of its programs and operations, seeking to discover its strengths, weaknesses, and future strategic plans, examining how well its program fulfils its mission, and measuring itself against the Standards.

A Visiting Committee, working from the school's Internal Evaluation, spends four days in the school meeting with the entire community including students, staff, parents and Board members. The Visiting Committee observes classes and all other activities of the school. This is a peer-review process, which means that the Visiting Committee Members are from schools with similar missions and values. The team challenges the school to reflect on how they can make improvements, for CAIS values a commitment to excellence.

Schools that have completed a CAIS Evaluation invariably find that the processes of school improvement and the setting of strategic goals and directions are greatly enhanced by accreditation.

The Benefits of National Standards in Canadian Schools

In a country where education is a provincial jurisdiction, our National Organization encourages schools to provide more than the provincial requirements in terms of program and opportunities for students.

We are proud that our schools meet the highest of Standards while remaining unique in their vision, mission, and values.

Our schools tell us of the following benefits:

- Accreditation promotes a reflective and collaborative school improvement process;
- Accreditation examines the overall program and operations of the entire school;
- Accreditation provides school leaders with validation of current programs and services and suggested planning for future growth and development;
- Accreditation provides educators with valuable professional development and information about effective practices nationally and globally;
- Accreditation assures parents and the general public that the school is focused on providing a safe and enriching learning environment while maintaining an efficient and effective operation;
- Accreditation provides a school's Board of Governors with an independent, non-governmental validation that the school they oversee is effectively delivering a quality educational experience to its students in a manner that is sustainable;
- Accreditation eases the transition students face as they move from one internationally accredited school to another;
- Accreditation provides education leaders at all levels with deserved recognition for going above and beyond the minimum to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to excellence and learning.