



North American Christian School
Accrediting Agency

Cooperative Agreement
between
North American Christian School Accrediting Agency
and
Georgia Association of Christian Schools

North American Christian School Accrediting Agency
615 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Georgia Association of Christian Schools
1551 Jennings Mill Road
Suite 2100-A
Bogart, Georgia 30622

Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to provide a process whereby Georgia Association of Christian Schools (GACS)-accredited schools can apply for membership with and receive the benefits of North American Christian School Accrediting Agency (NACCSAA). This process is adopted with the understanding that any Georgia Association of Christian Schools-accredited school can independently and voluntarily associate itself with NACCSAA.

It is understood that each agreeing party maintains a distinct identity separate from the other party; principles of said agreement are herein contained.

Agreement Principles

For the purpose of accreditation, both agencies, independently and separately of the other, affirm that they

A. Government and Finance.

1. Are legally operating in the state in which their respective offices are located.
2. Have a written statement of non-discrimination.
3. Have demonstrated financial responsibility as evidenced by its annual budget and regular review and/or audit.
4. Have an administrative staff under the direction of a governing body.

B. Communications.

1. Have a structure and systematic process for communicating with its member schools, including a complaint procedure.
2. Are in accord with and adhere to ethical standards for advertising and marketing.

C. Accreditation.

1. Have a set of standards for the evaluation and accreditation of its schools.
2. Have an accreditation process that includes self-evaluation, peer review (visiting team) and report, and continuous school improvement.
3. Maintain accurate, up-to-date records for each school that includes application forms and initial acceptance, self-study and peer review (visiting team) reports, school improvement plans, lists of review (visiting) team members, schools' annual reports.
4. Have a cycle of five (5) years for its accreditation process.
5. Maintain a systematic review of its policies, standards, and processes.
6. Have a procedure to select and appoint legitimate peer review (visiting team) members.
7. Provide reciprocal acceptance of credits and grade level placement with other accredited schools.

Eligible Schools

Eligible schools must: 1) be members in good standing with Georgia Association of Christian Schools, 2) be accredited by Georgia Association of Christian Schools, and 3) be accepted by North American Christian School Accrediting Agency after successful completion of application process.

Schools become candidates for NACSAA accreditation by receiving Georgia Association of Christian Schools accreditation prior to application process of NACSAA. The NACSAA application for candidacy will indicate the desire and intent of the school to participate in the NACSAA accreditation protocol.

Action on Accreditation

Both GACS and NACSAA will make an independent decision regarding a school's accreditation. Under this agreement, schools visited by a GACS team will be awarded or denied accreditation status by GACS. Following a favorable decision, a school may then make application to NACSAA for accreditation; NACSAA will then determine status of applicant school. When GACS protocol and standards are used, NACSAA will *not* recommend accreditation unless GACS recommends accreditation.

The requirements for the school based upon the accreditation report's recommendations, as well as the ongoing requirements for the maintenance for accreditation, will be the responsibility of each party according to established policies and procedures. The accredited school is responsible for developing and implementing an appropriate school improvement plan based on the findings of the self-study with emphasis on the school improvement process.

The school is responsible to each agency for whatever annual, mid-term or other reports; special actions; visits; or further documentations required to continue as an accredited member school.

The term accreditation will be established separately by each agency. It should be noted, however, that NACSAA shall coordinate its term accreditation with cooperating accrediting bodies.

Should either GACS or NACSAA find it necessary to encumber (e.g., advised, warned, probation) or remove the accredited status of a school subsequent to accreditation being granted, it will inform the other agency of its decision in a timely manner.

Each agency establishes its own dues and/or fees independently. The school is responsible for the payment of these fees in accordance with the policies of each agency. Each agency will establish its expectations of schools regarding expenses of the visit and ongoing accreditation issues.

Be it known to all interested parties that this Accreditation Agreement was approved the Georgia Association of Christian Schools on March 21, 2013; listed below is the Executive Director of GACS.

Dr. Michael H. Bryant
Georgia Association of Christian Schools
1551 Jennings Mill Road
Suite 2100-A
Bogart, Georgia 30622

AND

Approved by the NACSAA on March 5, 2013; signature of executive officer listed below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edward Earwood", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Edward Earwood, Executive Director
North American Christian School Accrediting Agency
615 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29210