

ABOUT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION AND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

Christian Schools International Accreditation

- Christian Schools International Accreditation is a division of Christian Schools International. Christian Schools International is a dynamic membership-based organization serving Christian schools throughout North America and other countries of the world.
- Christian Schools International Accreditation is overseen by a commission that is accountable to the Christian Schools International Board of Directors and Christian Schools International accredited schools.

Christian Schools International

- Christian Schools International was founded in 1920, serving eight member schools. Currently Christian Schools International serves nearly 500 member schools that employ 8,000 full-time and part-time faculty members who teach 100,000 students.
- The mission of Christian Schools International is to advance Christian education and support schools in their task of teaching students to know God and his world and to glorify him through obedient service.
- Christian Schools International serves thousands of non-member Christian schools with textbooks and other curriculum materials.
- Approximately 40 Christian colleges and other specialized institutions are affiliated with Christian Schools International.
- Christian Schools International is governed by a 14-member board of directors drawn from across North America.
- Christian Schools International finds its philosophical roots in historic Christianity, specifically in the Reformation, and subscribes to a philosophy of Christian education that honors the revealed Word of God and seeks to bring all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:10).
- Christian Schools International is a private, nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan and holds 501(c)(3) status with the United States Internal Revenue Service.
- Christian Schools International and Christian Schools International Accreditation do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin in the acceptance of members or in hiring practices.

For more information about Christian Schools International call 800-635-8288, ext. 223, or write to Christian Schools International, 3350 East Paris Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512-3054. Visit Christian Schools International's Web site at www.CSOnline.org.

RATIONALE FOR ACCREDITATION

Christian schools are places where every action, every idea, and every thought is examined in the light of God's revealed Word.

This is a worthy goal, to be sure, but one that does not happen automatically. Your school might have the word *Christian* in its name and employ believing teachers in its classrooms, but the skillful interweaving of biblical principles throughout all of learning—for all ages—is an activity that requires constant honing and attention.

And true biblical community is not only demonstrated in the classroom, but throughout the organization of the school—in the boardroom, in the administrative policies, and in relationships with parents and the community.

Schools demonstrate their seriousness about achieving those lofty ideals by holding themselves to high standards and inviting an external evaluation to validate their assessment.

Vision to Action, Christian Schools International's first accreditation and self-evaluation tool, and ***Measuring the Mission***, Christian Schools International's second accreditation and school improvement protocol, were developed to enable schools to:

A. Measure how well your school is meeting its mission. The Christian Schools International accreditation standards and procedures are designed, in part, to lead your school through a thorough self-evaluation based on its own mission—what you say in your own words you are doing for the children and young people whom you are called to serve.

B. Meet standards of your province or state. To become eligible for funding from governmental agencies, many schools are required to earn accreditation from an organization recognized by the province or state. Some provinces and states require that to be recognized as a school, your school must be accredited. *Vision to Action* and *Measuring the Mission* are designed to help meet these needs.

C. Improve your school's programs. Boards, staffs, and administrators must constantly evaluate and improve every aspect of educating students. Jesus gave stern warnings to those who would harm his little ones (Matthew 18); he takes what we do with his children seriously, and so must we. *Vision to Action* and *Measuring the Mission* create a means to help Christian educators and board members from your school provide the best for the Master's children and young people.

D. Inform parents of the quality of your school. Parents should surely be involved in the process of school evaluation—the school serves their children. But also parents feel more secure in the education of their children when a qualified outside organization holds their school accountable and places its stamp of approval on the educational program through the process of evaluation and accreditation.

E. Demonstrate quality Christian education to prospective parents. Increasingly parents who are inquiring about enrolling their children in your school wonder who accredits your school. The assumption is that a school that has sought and gained accreditation provides a better quality education than one that has not. That is not necessarily true, but parents often have only accreditation and word of mouth as ways to judge the quality of a school.

F. Meet requirements to receive matching gifts and grant money. Many companies, organizations, individuals, and foundations want to know that the schools to which they give gifts to are high quality educational organizations. Accreditation helps schools reach that goal.

G. Give students access to quality higher education. Some colleges and universities will look more favorably on students that graduate from accredited schools.

Vision to Action and *Measuring the Mission* are designed to provide your school with high quality Christian school self-evaluation, peer evaluation, and school improvement accreditation tools that will add significant value to your program.

<p>Strand 1: Leading with Purpose</p> <p>Standard 1.1: Mission and Vision <i>Indicators:</i> 1.1.1 Established and transformational 1.1.2 Communicated 1.1.3 Integrated into practice 1.1.4 Integrated into programs 1.1.5 Educational goals</p> <p>Standard 1.2: Governance <i>Indicators:</i> 1.2.1 By-laws or constitution 1.2.2 Policies and job descriptions 1.2.3 Legal requirements 1.2.4 Non-discrimination 1.2.5 Board member qualifications 1.2.6 Written policies 1.2.7 Self-evaluation</p> <p>Standard 1.3 Fiscal Responsibilities <i>Indicators:</i> 1.3.1 Integration of mission into finances 1.3.2 Balanced budget 1.3.3 Resource development 1.3.4 Policies and procedures 1.3.5 Fund-raising/record-keeping/audit 1.3.6 Tuition collection and tuition assistance 1.3.7 Insurance</p> <p>Standard 1.4 All Staff Members 1.4.1 Commitment to Christ 1.4.2 Background checks 1.4.3 Head administrator qualifications 1.4.4 Head job description and evaluation 1.4.5 Teacher qualifications 1.4.6 Induction/coaching/mentoring</p> <p>Standard 1.5 Student Health and Safety 1.5.1 Student health compliance 1.5.2 Student safety compliance</p>	<p>Strand 2: Teaching for Learning</p> <p>Standard 2.1: Curriculum <i>Indicators:</i> 2.1.1 Articulated 2.1.2 Biblical perspective 2.1.3 Aligned to standards 2.1.4 Review</p> <p>Standard 2.2: Instruction <i>Indicators:</i> 2.2.1 Content appropriateness 2.2.2 Learner appropriate/differentiation 2.2.3 Educational support services 2.2.4 Reflection and refinement 2.2.5 Best practices 2.2.6 Student engagement</p> <p>Standard 2.3: Assessment <i>Indicators:</i> 2.3.1 Aligned to curriculum and instruction 2.3.2 Valid, reliable, bias free 2.3.3 Multiple measures 2.3.4 Informs instruction 2.3.5 Sharing results</p>	<p>Strand 3: Leading for Learning</p> <p>Standard 3.1: Instructional Leadership <i>Indicators:</i> 3.1.1 Knowledge of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and faith development 3.1.2 Focus on student results 3.1.3 Integration and use of technology 3.1.4 Planned results 3.1.5 Accountability and evaluation 3.1.6 Collaboration</p> <p>Standard 3.2: Teacher as Leader <i>Indicators:</i> 3.2.1 Sufficient instructional staff 3.2.2 Content knowledge 3.2.3 Personal faith expression 3.2.4 Communication</p> <p>Standard 3.3: Learning for Leading <i>Indicators:</i> 3.3.1 Applies curriculum content 3.3.2 Results-driven</p>	<p>Strand 4: Learning in Community</p> <p>Standard 4.1: Nurturing and Caring for Students <i>Indicators:</i> 4.1.1 Academic and spiritual advocacy 4.1.2 Counseling and guidance resources for students 4.1.3 School and classroom behavioral management</p> <p>Standard 4.2: Practicing Christian Community <i>Indicators:</i> 4.2.1 Classroom community—biblical ideals 4.2.2 Climate/culture 4.2.3 Worship experiences 4.2.4 Service Opportunities</p> <p>Standard 4.3: Christ-honoring Community <i>Indicators:</i> 4.3.1 Board-administrator relationship 4.3.2 Visionary strategic plan 4.3.3 Facilities</p> <p>Standard 4.4: Interaction with Community <i>Indicators:</i> 4.4.1 Multiple methods 4.4.2 Intentional 4.4.3 Volunteer involvement 4.4.4 Broader community</p>
<p>STRANDS/STANDARDS/INDICATORS AT A GLANCE</p> <p>Christian Schools International Accreditation <i>Measuring the Mission, Second Edition 2012</i></p>			

MEASURING THE MISSION PROCESS

SUMMARY

PHASE 1

SCHOOL APPLIES FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION CANDIDACY

- *Measuring the Mission* sent to the school electronically
- Christian Schools International visits the school to verify readiness
- Christian Schools International Accreditation assigns a mentor
- Candidacy status granted for up to 3 years (5 for new schools)

PHASE 2

SCHOOL CONDUCTS A SELF-EVALUATION

- Led by school improvement team (SIT) using the standards of *Measuring the Mission*
- Committees gather documentation, survey stakeholders, and write reports
- The SIT, with input from staff and governing body, develops a school improvement plan (SIP)
- Complete self-study sent to Christian Schools International Accreditation and site visitors

PHASE 3

SITE TEAM VISITS THE SCHOOL (by end of third year of candidacy)

- Team of visiting educators validates self-evaluation and collaborates with the SIT on the SIP
- Site visitors write a report that is submitted to Christian Schools International and school
- Team recommends approval of accreditation

PHASE 4

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP) COMPLETED BY SCHOOL

- The school's SIT, with input from appropriate stakeholders, completes the SIP using the visiting team's report
- SIP submitted to Christian Schools International Accreditation

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE SIP AND GRANTS ACCREDITATION STATUS

PHASE 5

THE SIP IS IMPLEMENTED AND ANNUAL REPORTS WITH INDICATORS OF PROGRESS SUBMITTED TO CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOR THE DURATION OF THE ACCREDITATION TERM (MAXIMUM 5 YEARS)

STANDARDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL HOLDS FOR MEMBER CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

In order to be accredited by Christian Schools International Accreditation, schools must be members of Christian Schools International. Christian Schools International has established general guidelines for its member Christian schools. Schools that are members of Christian Schools International have already complied with the following standards. Most of these standards appear again in some form in the “Standards for Self-Evaluation.”

- Christian Schools International member schools are committed to the right of parents to freely choose the school that their children attend. These schools actively promote their independence and diversity while continually maintaining a broad public commitment to excellence in education for the good of the community.
- Christian Schools International member schools do not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national or ethnic origin in employment practices, administrative policies, scholarship and loan programs, or athletic or other school-administered programs and activities.
- Christian Schools International member schools have the responsibility of serving the educational needs of students as they prepare to lead Christian lives in contemporary society. In order to give a sound basis and direction to its educational program, each school has a written statement of philosophy and of its essential purposes.
- Christian Schools International member schools are organized for proper management and operation as provided by a constitution or bylaws.
- Christian Schools International member schools have a curriculum compatible with the school’s philosophy and mission, designed to impart knowledge and skills normally set by current curriculum standards and to teach moral and spiritual values for living a life in Christ.
- Christian Schools International member schools have a supporting constituency of Christians who provide adequate financial support to maintain good standards of education.
- Christian Schools International member schools have clearly stated policies in such areas as admission, attendance, discipline, reporting, programs for individual differences, and school health services.
- Christian Schools International member schools are staffed by qualified teachers and administrators who fulfill the legal requirements of their respective state or province and who are personally committed to Christ and his kingdom. The school’s governing body is committed to establishing policies on contractual arrangements and providing appropriate wages and benefits for its employees.
- Christian Schools International member school buildings and other facilities are designed to promote learning and meet acceptable standards for health and safety.
- Christian Schools International member schools cooperate with Christian Schools International staff members and other member schools.