



Since 1908, schools have turned to the Independent Schools Association of the Central States to help build and nourish independent school communities. ISACS provides accreditation services and professional development programs for more than 230 schools serving 90,000 students across the Midwest.

independent schools association of the central states



Mission / What We Do

ISACS leads schools to pursue exemplary independent education.

Vision / Why We Do It

ISACS schools empower all students to contribute and thrive in a diverse and changing world.

Core Values / Ideas We Live By

Equity, Integrity, Continuous Improvement

SERVICES

ISACS **accreditation services** are highly regarded in the independent school community. ISACS seven-year cycle is based upon: meeting ISACS standards, the fit between a school's stated mission and actual program implementation, and a thorough process of school improvement.

ISACS provides a wide variety of **professional development** programs for our membership. Administrators and teachers consistently rate the ISACS Annual Conference, Heads Conference, and New Teacher Institute as defining professional experiences.

ISACS also offers the following experiences to support ongoing growth and development:

Conferences – Instruction as well as active exploration of current research in best practices in education for those in all roles and all levels.

Workshops – One or two-day focused investigation of specific topics of importance to independent school educators and trustees.

Learning Bridge Webinars – Easy access to international experts in all aspects of education and school operations without the expense of travel.

The ISACS staff provides **consulting services** to member schools in the areas of governance, accreditation, professional development, and most aspects of independent school management. Members are not charged for consulting services, but are responsible for associated expenses.



Other Membership Benefits

- National Association of Independent Schools' DASL tool. Access to an online tool member schools can use to find actionable data related to all aspects of their school operations, including admission, enrollment, salaries, and more. A collaboration of more than 30 associations, DASL is the independent school community's repository of clean, comprehensive, usable data.
- Career Center that offers assistance in finding just the right individuals for open teaching and administrative positions in member schools.
- Resources addressing issues of interest to the independent school community, including teachers, administrators, trustees, and parents.
- President's Updates to heads of school that keep member schools informed about current trends.

Independent schools share certain fundamental characteristics of purpose, structure, and operation that define a school's independence. An ISACS school is independent in that it has:

- Independent incorporation as a not-for-profit institution, 501(c)(3) required.
- An individually developed mission and philosophy.
- A self-perpetuating Board of Trustees whose role is to plan for the future, to set overall policy, to finance the school, and to appoint the head of school.
- An administration free to implement the mission of the school.
- A commitment to continuous institutional growth and quality manifested by participation in the accreditation process.



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Accredited Member (full membership): Independent schools within the ISACS region that meet membership standards and have successfully completed the accreditation program. ISACS accredits independent schools in: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Provisional Member (provisional membership): Independent schools within the ISACS region that have successfully operated for a minimum of three consecutive years but have not yet been evaluated by ISACS or by an equivalent agency approved by ISACS; or formerly accredited members that, after formal ISACS accreditation, are found no longer fully compliant but are acting in good faith to return to full compliance.

New School (operating less than three years): Services shall be provided to new schools within the ISACS region not established long enough to qualify for full or provisional membership.

New School Services (schools in planning stages): Schools that are in the planning stages and do not yet have students enrolled and attending. Schools in this category are eligible to subscribe to the services of ISACS, receive help, advice, and publications from ISACS but are not members. New School Services schools can attend ISACS events at member rates.

Affiliate: Independent educational institutions or organizations concerned directly or indirectly with independent education but not qualifying as independent schools under ISACS member standards. Members receive publications and can attend ISACS events at member rates.

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