

"Who are AAA and
NCPSA? Why Get
Accreditation, and
What Does it Take?"

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What is Accreditation?

It is the process that is designed to improve the quality of a program.

Why is Accreditation Important?

An early childhood program that is accredited is guaranteed to offer its students a high level of care in a nurturing and academic environment.

Why is Accreditation Important?

Early childhood programs are held accountable for meeting standards that have been found to ensure important rich, meaningful experiences for young children.

The Process Begins

Collaborating means purposefully building interpersonal relationships and working towards healthy inter-dependence, which occurs when teachers, administration and governing boards are comfortable giving and receiving help without forfeiting accountability.

The Process

Pursuing and achieving accreditation is done in three steps:

1. Self-Study Period/Document
2. Team Visit
3. Third-party validation

Self-Study Period... (6-12 months)

Is the time you and your team (*teachers, staff, governing board, parents, conference, union and stake-holders*) spend evaluating your program; by collecting evidence, surveying parents, making improvements, and filling out the Standards for Accreditation document.

Team Visit

Prepare for the on-campus team visit by:

- Having your self-study and evidences ready prior to the visit
- Getting all your files organized (30 second rule)
- Making sure all teacher and student records are up-to-date
- Arranging for volunteers to assist you on the day of visit
- Preparing teachers to be ready for the visit
- Being available for interviews and question time
- Making sure team members feel welcome

Team Members

Four to five team members will:

- Review how well your program measures up to its standards
- Record how well the program meets the standards
- Visit all classrooms and tour the campus
- Review your policies (*student handbooks, teacher handbook, constitution, board minutes, etc.*)
- *Check all safety regulations*
- *Prepare a written exit-report*

Third Party Validation

What happens after the visit and exit report?:

- Report is sent on to your union office for review by an accreditation review committee
- Between May and June, the union review committee recommends to NAD Commission on Accreditation (**NADCOA**) that your program be granted accreditation
- In July NADCOA accepts the recommendation from the union and request that **NCPSA** issue your program a certificate
- In October, your program will receive the certificate and copy of report

Who are AAA and COA?

The **A**ccrediting **A**ssociation of Seventh-day **A**dventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities (AAA) is the denominational accrediting authority for all tertiary and graduate educational programs and institutions owned by Seventh-day Adventist Church entities. It also reviews and endorses the accreditation of secondary schools owned by the Church, as recommended by the **C**ommissions **O**n **A**ccreditation of the divisions (COA).

What is the Commission on Accreditation?

Each Division has a **C**ommission **o**n **A**ccreditation (COA) which is responsible for the denominational accreditation of **early childhood programs and primary schools** owned by the Church in its territory. The Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities and the division **C**ommissions **o**n **A**ccreditation evaluate the quality of the denominational institutions' programs and their implementation of the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of education in order to foster the unity and mission of the Church.

Seventh-day
Adventist

DIVISIONS

East-Central Africa

Euro-Asia

Inter-American

Inter-European

North American

North Asia-Pacific

Southern African-Indian Ocean

South American

South Pacific

Southern Asia

Southern Asia-Pacific

Trans-European

West-Central Africa

Which División are You In?

North American Division (NAD):

- United States
- Canada
- French possessions of St. Pierre and Miquelon
- Bermuda
- Guam
- Micronesia

Our División (NAD)

North American Commission on Accreditation (NADCOA) is responsible for the denominational accreditation of early childhood programs and primary schools owned by the Church in its territory.

Who is NCPSEA?

The **N**ational **C**ouncil for **P**rivate **S**chool **A**ccreditation (NCPSEA) is an independent and autonomous accrediting association serving private early childhood, elementary, and secondary schools.

How Does NCPSEA Come into the Picture?

North American Division Commission on Accreditation (NADCOA) partners with the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSEA), which has established accreditation procedures to facilitate the appropriate application, review, and recognition of qualified and credible accrediting associations serving private schools and early childhood programs.

Partnership for Accreditation

AAA

COA/NADCOA

Unions

NCPSA

Partnership for Accreditation

Early Childhood Programs

Conferences

Unions

Standard

Webster defines “Standard”:

- Standard, criterion, gauge, yardstick, touchstone mean a means of determining what a thing should be.
- The Standards for Accreditation establish criteria for institutional quality.

Indicators

Indicators support the standard.

Evidences

Observable