



Recognition and Modification
What is New in ACCS Accreditation

Presented by:

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The Mission of ACCS

Furthering *Christ and His Kingdom*

Conserving *The Classical Tradition*

Promoting *Standards of Excellence*



Addition (Modification)

New State Funding for Private Schools

1. ACCS accreditation requires *financial stability* (B. 1.).
2. B. 1. includes an indicator that states that tuition is to provide 80% or more of budgeted income. *Why?*
3. Change: For stability, schools *may* exceed 20% of income from an outside source.

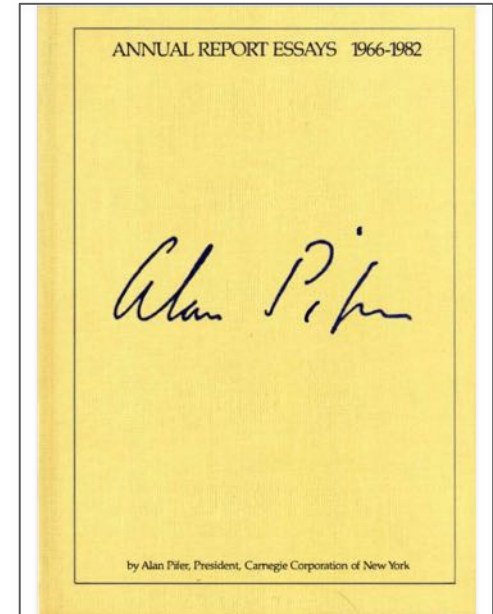


One (of Four) Reasons We Need Private Service Institutions

Private service institutions help to safeguard “academic, professional, and artistic freedom.”

“It is simply to say that private institutions, because they are not directly dependent on public appropriations, are less immediately vulnerable to restrictions on their capacity to function effectively in the public interest.”

—Alan Pifer, President, Carnegie Foundation of New York.



B.2. Financial Independence

New Standard: B. 2. a.

When does B. 2. a. apply?

1. Nearly all families qualify to receive funds.
2. Significant amount of funds. Hard to turn down.

Goal is *stability* for both the short-term and long-term.



B.2. Financial Independence

New Standard: B. 2. a.

If B. 2. a. applies to a school, schools must adopt:

1. Mitigation plan to address the loss of these funds.
2. Board policy must include closing the school as one means of mitigation.
3. ACCS will not accredit schools that compromise on biblical truth.



B.2. Financial Independence

New Standard: B. 2. a.

Before B. 2. a. applies to a school, schools should:

1. Have legislation reviewed by ADF or legal counsel.
2. Include ADF language when applying for funds.
3. Look for: Parents make determination on funds.
4. Expect calls for accountability & transparency.

INSTRUCTIONS: The following template is designed to submit contemporaneously with an application for or acceptance of aid or in-house funds. It should be adapted according to the content of the particular program. Review the legal counsel to also review this.

[DATE]

[Program Contact Name]
[Address]
[Address]
[Address]
[E-mail]

RE: [Ministry Name]'s Application for [Name of Grant or Program] to
[Ministry Name]'s Submission of [Name of Agreement or Application]

Dear [Name]:

[Ministry Name] has joined or submitted the [Application or Agreement] between the [Ministry] and [Program Name] with the understanding that it must be read consistent with existing law and the U.S. and [State] Constitutions. As a religious organization, the [Ministry] has statutory and constitutional rights to operate and make decisions based on its religious beliefs, including but not limited to hiring employees and associating with volunteers who share those beliefs and are willing to abide by them. By signing the [Agreement or Application], the [Ministry] does not waive or relinquish any such rights.

Please contact the undersigned immediately should there be any misunderstanding on this matter. The [Ministry] looks forward to [fill in the blank] through participation in this program.

Sincerely,

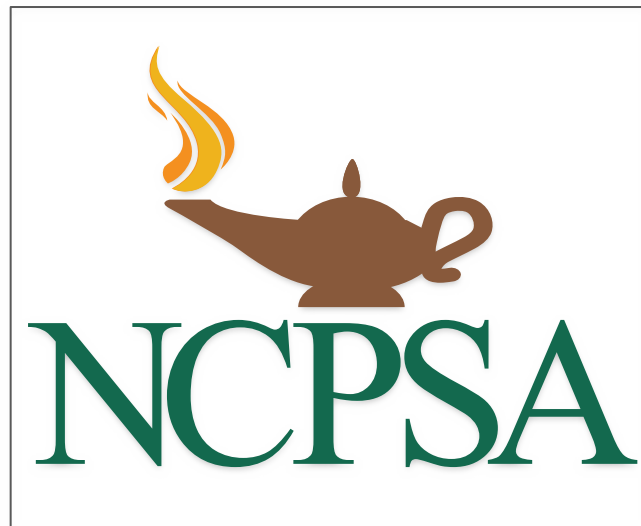
[Name]
[Title]
[Ministry]



National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)

Formed in 1993, twenty-one associations now hold full membership status in the Council.

“accrediting association of private school accrediting agencies.”



National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)

Recognition

1. ACCS-accredited schools also have NCPSA accreditation.
2. Listed in the NCPSA online school directory.

Example:

1. The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).



National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)

Treated Like a Regional

1. See non-public schools at www.tn.gov/



3	Schools that are regionally accredited.	Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC)
	If Category 3 is chosen, contact one of the approved regional accrediting agencies and fulfill their criteria for candidacy. For established schools, the process for accreditation can take up to a year. For newly established schools, the process could take up to two years. During this candidacy period, often these schools start as Category 5 schools.	Cognia (formerly AdvancED)
		Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA CESS)
		Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
		Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools (MSCES)
		Middle States Commission on Secondary School (MSCSS)
		National Association of Independent School (NAIS)
		National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)
		New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
		Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC)
		Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)

Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)

In 1985, the U.S. Department of Education's General Counsel ruled there was not statutory authority for the Department to recognize any—elementary-secondary accrediting—*including regional associations*.



Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)

Regionals are now National

- New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC)
- Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS)
- Middle States Association of Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)
- North Central Association of Schools and Colleges (NCA)
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
- Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NWAC)

Merged with AdvancedED, now Cognia



Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)

Why?

1. The school needs more recognition for accreditation.
 - * College admissions
 - * State scholarship opportunities
2. Identify a specific need before applying.



Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)

How?

1. The school becomes a member of MSA.
2. Tell ACCS and MSA you want co-accreditation.
3. *Recognition* is an option if reviewed within two years.



Q & A

What is New in
ACCS Accreditation



Thank you for attending.

Presenters

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Questions concerning Accreditation

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