

# Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation

## ACCREDITATION NEWS 2023-24



### New Website Implementation

WRISA has been working diligently to provide our schools a fresh and user friendly website! The project has had some ups and downs, but was used for all Annual Reports for the 2023-24 school year. Some of the new features are:

- Annual Report and Self-Study are together and completely online
- Ability to upload documentation for Self-Study
- Have multiple users for school with easy access to change passwords
- Ability for schools to download staff information
- Modern look and ease of use

If you have any input on features you would like to see, please forward them to us at [wrisa@wrisa.net](mailto:wrisa@wrisa.net)

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### WRISA Board Changes

Laura Westra has replaced Pete VanDerPuy as the CSI representative. Peggy Schoenfuss begins a new term as President and Matt Oppermann has been elected as secretary.

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### WRISA fee structure for upcoming School Years

WRISA strives to keep accreditation affordable to all schools, large and small. WRISA will continue to have a fee per building, plus a student fee. We are publishing this information for schools to adequately budget.

#### 2024-25

Per school/building fee \$175 and per student fee \$1

#### 2025-26

Per school/building fee \$200 and per student fee \$1

### Mission:

The Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation annually accredits schools that meet rigorous standards of excellence and demonstrate continuous school improvement.

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### Board of Directors

**President:** Peggy Schoenfuss, MAE, Diocese of Superior (Member)

**Vice President:** Tom Reichenbacher, Diocese of La Crosse (Member)

**Secretary:** Matt Oppermann, WELS (Member)

**Treasurer:** Michael Lancaster, Ed.S., Diocese of Madison (Member)

Javera Bokhari, Independent Schools (Member-at Large)

Susa Givens (Member at-Large)

Jamie Hahn, Diocese of Green Bay (Member)

John Soper, Ed.S., Archdiocese of Milwaukee (Member)

Laura Westra, CSI (Member)

Jean M Suttie, Independents (Executive Director)

## Schools Accredited for a Subsequent Cycle

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Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School - Pulaski

Believers in Christ Christian Academy - Milwaukee

Blessed Sacrament - Madison

Blessed Sacrament School - Milwaukee

Cross Trainers Academy - Milwaukee

Delavan Christian School - Delavan

Early View Academy of Excellence - Milwaukee

EverGreen Academy - Racine

Fond du Lac Christian School - Fond du Lac

Grace Christian Academy - West Allis

Lumen Christi - Mequon

Mother of Good Counsel School - Milwaukee

Nativity Jesuit Academy - Milwaukee

Nativity of Our Lord - Rhinelander

Notre Dame de la Baie Academy - Green Bay

Notre Dame School of Milwaukee

Oostburg Christian School - Oostburg

Roncalli Elementary School - Manitowoc

Roncalli High School - Manitowoc

Roncalli Middle School - Manitowoc

Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary School - Sun Prairie

Sheboygan Christian School - Sheboygan

Sonnenberg School - Racine

St Elizabeth Ann Seton School - Sheboygan

St Francis Xavier - Merrill

St Joseph Catholic - Boyd

St Joseph Grade School - Dodgeville

St Kilian - Hartford

St Leonard School - Muskego

St Mary School - Bloomington

St Mary School - Marathon

St Patrick School - Sparta

St Paul School - Bloomer

St. Bridget Parish School - River Falls

St. Eugene School - Fox Point

St. Joan of Arc School - Nashotah

St. Vincent Pallotti School - Milwaukee

Thorp Catholic School - Thorp

## Schools Receiving Initial Accreditation

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Madinah Academy of Madison

Queen of the Apostles School - Tomah

Promoting  
Excellence  
in Our  
Schools

Board Accredits  
Schools

At the June and November meetings, the Board of Directors accredited 281 schools. To view the complete list of schools, visit the WRISA website:  
<https://wrisapk.wpengine.com/accredited-schools/>  
after January 1, 2024.

# Strategic Planning

During the 2022-23 school year the following goals were achieved:

- Complete the electronics transfer of historical WRISA documents
- Continue the updating of WRISA documents to Google
- Complete the new website for the 2023-24 School Year
- Support schools in pre-accreditation, self-studies, and school visits
- Develop a Standard Operating Procedure Handbook for Executive Director

During the Strategic Planning meetings, the Board developed the following goals for the 2023-24 school year.

- Update Board Manual
- Create a comprehensive policy for Adding Grades
- Continue to update and transfer all WRISA documents to Google and new website
- Continue to develop a Standard Operating Procedure Handbook for Executive Director
- Continue to work with developers to refine the WRISA website
- Develop a policy for major gifts
- Review and align other accreditation associations with WRISA Standards



## What is NFSSAA?

National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Association

(Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin)

### Background

1. WRISA is a member of the NFSSAA (since 1992)
2. The National Federation connects accrediting organizations in multiple states, fostering learning and collaboration so that we can bring the best service our members
3. The National Federation serves as a resource and guide for member organizations
4. Each state's affiliation with NFSSAA provides a means for national recognition through Homeland Security, ICE, and the National Honor Society for K-12 accreditation.

### Mission

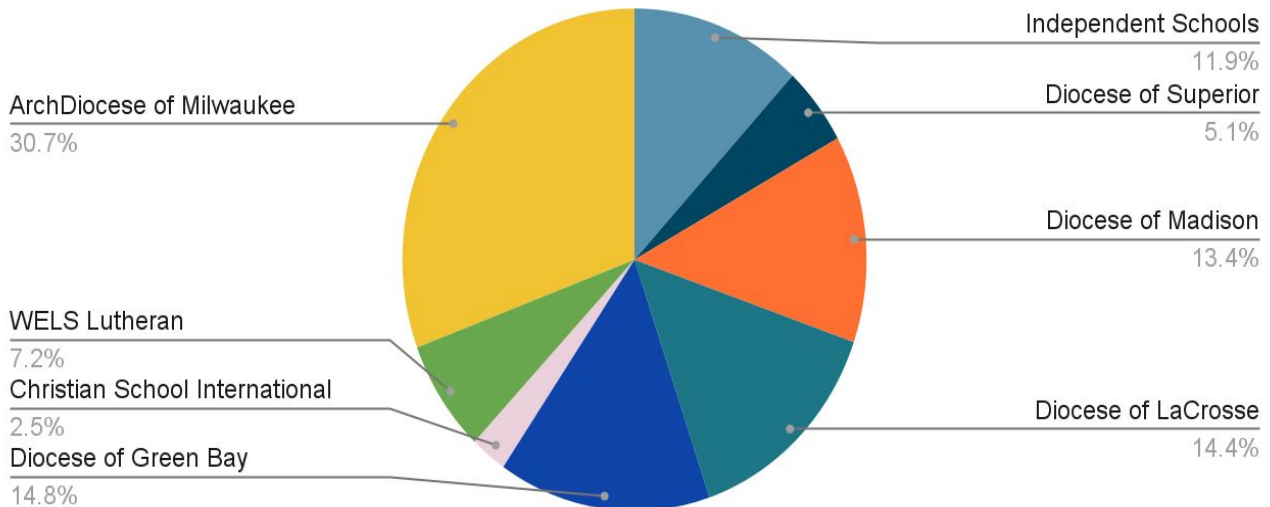
The National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations (NFSSAA) is an alliance of state accrediting associations committed to maintaining and advancing high standards of quality for the diverse schools in our coalition.

### Statement of Purpose and Commitment

- The purpose of NFSSAA is to ensure that state nonpublic school accrediting associations are focused on advancing the quality of education within their individual states through assessment, accountability, educational standards, and continuous school improvement.
- In a society that is constantly changing in relation to information, technology, and global communication, there is a need for continuous assessment and evaluation. Schools that choose to engage in an accrediting process that involves ongoing school improvement, assist students in preparing for the future.
- State chapters of the National Federation serve schools with diverse student populations. NFSSAA acknowledges the unique mission and purpose of nonpublic schools and the need for standards that highlight these characteristics. Accreditation standards are reviewed in relation to the accountability of the school's mission and academic programs.
- NFSSAA's commitment to quality education is twofold: first, to assure students in nonpublic schools are provided with educational experiences that will prepare them for the challenges of adult life; and, second, to reassure all stakeholders that quality education exists in our nonpublic schools.

## End of Year Report

### WRISA SCHOOLS



### Did you know?

- WRISA accredits 281 non-public schools serving more than 64,000 students throughout the great State of Wisconsin in Elementary through High School
- The largest WRISA school has an enrollment of over 2825 students
- The smallest school has 10 students enrolled
- WRISA is a member driven organization focused on serving member schools
- WRISA relies on members for 95% of its budget
- WRISA has been accrediting religious and independent schools since 1992
- WRISA accredits over 200 schools that participate in one or more of the four Wisconsin Parental Choice programs

WRISA is a member of the National Federation of Non-public School State Accrediting Associations (NFSSAA). WRISA is recognized by: the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) as such, WRISA accredited schools are considered to be recognized by the U. S. Department of Education; the State of Wisconsin for pre-accrediting and accrediting schools for the Parental Choice Programs; the Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority (WHEFA); the National Honor Society (NHS) and the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). WRISA has formed a Co-operative Agreement with Middle States Association: Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA\_CESS).

For all inquiries, please contact the WRISA Executive Director, Jean Suttie

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