

Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Accreditation

ACCREDITATION NEWS 2025-26



Remembering Board Member Susa Givens

Deepest sympathy to the family of Susa Givens. Susa faithfully served on the WRISA Board for eight years and was a passionate advocate for students and education in the Milwaukee area throughout her career. Her insight, dedication, and beautiful spirit will be deeply missed.

Website Information

The WRISA Board continually seeks ways to enhance the WRISA portal to make it more user-friendly for our schools. The portal is reviewed at every board meeting to identify areas for improvement. If you have suggestions for upgrades, please contact the WRISA office. wrisa@wrisa.net

The following updates were implemented recently ...

- Updated formatting boxes for self-study
- Added dual accreditation distinction boxes
- System Schools - updated goal implementation
- WCSA - updated goal layout and interface

If you have any input on features you would like to see, please forward them to us at wrisa@wrisa.net

WRISA fee structure

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.

2026-27

Per school/building fee \$200 and per student fee \$1.25

2027-28

Per school/building fee \$200 and per student fee \$1.25

Mission:

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

Board of Directors

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

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

Secretary: Jamie Hahn, Diocese of Green Bay
(Member)

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

Javera Bokhari, Independent Schools
(Member-at Large)

Dan Markgraf
WI Evangelical Lutheran Schools (Member)

Peggy Schoenfuss, MAE,
Diocese of Superior (Member)

Laura Westra, Christian Schools International (CSI)
(Member)

Jean M Suttie, Independents
(Executive Director)

Open (Member at-Large)

WRISA Board Changes

Thank you to Matt Oppermann for serving as the WELS representative. Dan Markgraf has accepted the WELS representative position.

The **At-Large Member** position on the WRISA Board is currently open. Please watch for upcoming information on how to apply for this role.

Schools Accredited for a Subsequent Cycle

Christ King School	Wauwatosa
Holy Angels School	West Bend
Holy Apostles School	New Berlin
St. Gabriel School	Hubertus
St. Gregory the Great School	Milwaukee
St. John XXIII Catholic School	Port Washington
St. Mary's Visitation Parish School	Elm Grove
St. Robert School	Shorewood
<u>Newman Catholic Schools</u>	
St. Anne	Wausau
St. Mark	Rothschild
Central Office	Wausau
Newman Catholic High School	Wausau
Newman Catholic Middle School	Wausau
Holy Name Catholic School	Wausau
St. Clement School	Lancaster
St. Francis Xavier School	Cross Plains
St. Luke School	Plain
St. William School	Janesville
St. Victor School	Monroe
St. Aloysius Gonzaga School	Sauk City
CERT School	Milwaukee
King's Academy Christian School	Milwaukee
New Testament Christian Academy	Milwaukee
Divine Destiny School	Milwaukee
Randolph Christian School	Randolph
Crown of Life Lutheran School	Hubertus
Good Shepherd Lutheran School	West Bend

Schools Receiving Initial Accreditation

The following school has successfully completed WRISA's comprehensive Self Study and Site Visit processes. As part of this effort, the school conducted an in-depth Self Study and welcomed a Visiting Team of peer education professionals. Based on the team's findings, the WRISA Board confirmed that the school meets all WRISA Standards and Quality Indicators. In addition, the school created a Long Range Plan to guide the continued growth and development of its educational programs.

Congratulations to:

North Cedar Academy, Ladysmith

Managing School Portal Users

Schools can add or remove users from their school account at any time by accessing the "User" tab in the portal. It is strongly recommended that each school have **at least two or more users** listed to ensure continuous access and account management. For any questions or assistance, please contact the WRISA office.

WRISA Educator Credential Requirements

WRISA requires all educators to hold a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and 12 education-related credits. This standard exceeds the requirements of the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. Educator credentials can be uploaded to the WRISA portal as soon as a new employee is hired. Schools are not required to wait until the start of the fall semester to submit this documentation.

WRISA Certificates

All certificates are available on the Document tab. They will no longer be mailed to schools. Please print your certificate and proudly display it at your school, near your office or entrance doors. [Home - Wisconsin Religious & Independent Schools Accreditation](#)

WRISA Mailing Address

WRISA. PO Box 154, Sparta, WI 54656
Please make sure your finance office has the current address.

Promoting
Excellence in
Our Schools

Board Accredits Schools

At the June and November meetings, the Board of Directors accredited 286 schools. To view the complete list of schools, visit the WRISA website: wrisa.net after January 1, 2026.

Strategic Planning

During the 2024-25 school year the following goals were achieved:

- Maintain WRISA website and update as needed
- Updated the Board Manual
- Created a comprehensive policy for Adding Grades
- Continue to update the Executive Director manual
- Review and align other accreditation associations with WRISA Standards
- Begin a plan of review for all WRISA Standards
- Reviewed and implemented new evidence lists for WRISA self-study document

During the Strategic Planning meeting, the Board developed the following goals for the 2025-26 school year.

- Continue to upgrade and maintain the WRISA website
- Continue to work on a marketing plan
- Review WRISA Policy Handbook
- Develop a plan to cultivate board members
- Survey schools on new website

What is the NFNSSAA?

National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Association
(Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin)



NFNSSAA
National Federation of Nonpublic
School State Accrediting Associations
Accrediting Excellence. Empowering Schools.

Background

- WRISA has been a proud member of the National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations (NFNSSAA) since 1992.
- The NFNSSAA connects accrediting organizations across multiple states, fostering collaboration and shared learning to ensure we provide the highest quality service to our member schools.
- As a valuable resource and guide, the Federation supports member organizations in maintaining strong accreditation standards.
- Each state's affiliation with the NFNSSAA also offers national recognition for K-12 accreditation through agencies such as Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the National Honor Society.

Mission

The National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations (NFNSSAA) 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 National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations (NFNSSAA) is dedicated to supporting state nonpublic school accrediting associations in advancing the quality of education within their states. This is achieved through a focus on assessment, accountability, educational standards, and continuous school improvement.

In today's rapidly evolving society—shaped by advancements in information, technology, and global communication—continuous assessment and evaluation are essential. Schools that engage in an accreditation process emphasizing ongoing improvement better equip students to succeed in the future.

State chapters of the NFNSSAA serve schools with diverse student populations, recognizing and honoring the unique missions and purposes of nonpublic schools. Accreditation standards are designed to reflect and uphold these distinct characteristics while ensuring accountability in fulfilling each school's mission and delivering strong academic programs.

NFNSSAA's commitment to quality education is twofold:

1. To ensure students in nonpublic schools receive educational experiences that prepare them for the challenges of adult life.
2. To reassure all stakeholders that nonpublic schools provide a high-quality education.

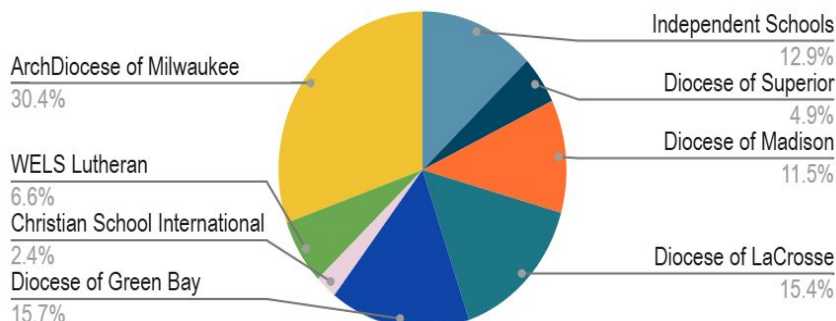
Through these efforts, NFNSSAA remains steadfast in its mission to uphold excellence in education across nonpublic schools nationwide.

End of Year Report

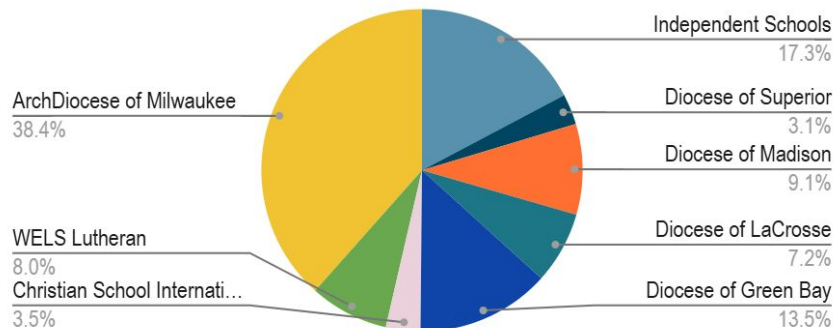
Did you know?

- WRISA accredits 286 non-public schools serving more than 60,000 students throughout the State of Wisconsin in Elementary through High School
- WRISA supports a diverse group of students in WI
 - Church of Christ - 1 School
 - Independent - 14 Schools
 - Islamic - 3 Schools
 - Lutheran - 20 Schools
 - NonDenominational - 23 Schools
 - Roman Catholic - 225 Schools
- WRISA has 13 active Candidate Schools
- 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 220 schools that participate in one or more of the four Wisconsin Parental Choice programs

WRISA Schools



WRISA School Enrollments



WRISA is a member of the National Federation of Non-public School State Accrediting Associations (NFNSSAA). 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

Email: wrisa@wrisa.net Phone: 608-567-1208

WRISA, PO Box 154, Sparta, WI 54656