

ACIS Accreditation Matters



When considering a school, your family has likely already identified a set of criteria for selection that matters to you – often aligning it with your values, standards, and expectations surrounding not only the academic experience but also the community you will soon join. With a vast array of options to consider in both non-public and public schools, it can be challenging to weigh all options equally. As they say, with choice, comes responsibility.



Since independent schools are responsible for their own funding, curriculum, and administration, independent schools are free to set and pursue their own goals. Accreditation provides a level of comfort and peace of mind in knowing that the independent school you are considering has made a commitment to operate at a level of excellence and standards determined by outside qualified education professionals. An independent school's affirmation to uphold the best possible outcomes for students by meeting these standards signifies a concerted level of commitment and quality in academia to you and your student – holding themselves accountable to stay relevant and to continuously improve.

7 REASONS WHY

HIGH STANDARDS

Our schools follow a set of rigorous standards that reflect the proven characteristics of good independent schools.

MISSION-PROGRAM CONGRUENCE

Accreditation by ACIS offers assurance that an independent school provides the character and quality of education claimed.

THIRD-PARTY ACCOUNTABILITY

The rigorous accreditation process of ACIS requires meaningful and comprehensive evaluation of the school by outside experts who validate strengths and hold school leaders accountable for addressing weaknesses.

SCHOOL VIABILITY

ACIS accreditation assesses the financial viability of our schools and whether the leadership is effective and can maintain long-term stability.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

To maintain our accreditation, school leaders must demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

For students at the high school level, school accreditation facilitates acceptance into college. Students from accredited schools often receive priority consideration, while those from unaccredited schools must provide special evidence to demonstrate their readiness for higher education.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Accreditation ensures schools meet or exceed relevant government regulations involving: health, fire, safety, sanitation, and other requirements.

THE ACIS DIFFERENCE

Unlike other accrediting bodies, ACIS is recognized by the State of Colorado, Colorado Shines, and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). As a member in good standing of the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA), ACIS conforms to ICAISA's Criteria for Effective Independent School Accreditation Practices. These practices and standards are considerably more rigorous, comprehensive, and ongoing than other accreditation agencies. Like its member schools, ACIS itself undergoes regular and comprehensive review for best practices in accreditation by outside experts from ICAISA.

Member schools in ACIS make a commitment to continuous school improvement when they join the association. A ten-year, continuous evaluation cycle holds them accountable for complying with the association's high accreditation standards. ACIS accreditation thereby provides a reasonable assurance of quality regarding the education and learning experience provided by its member schools.

ACIS member schools also benefit from the association's extensive professional development offerings, collegial networks to facilitate best practices, local, national, and international research to make data-driven decisions, and experienced consulting services. Because ACIS serves only Colorado schools, it is uniquely positioned to understand and support independent schools in the state. ACIS accreditation makes a meaningful difference.