



MNSAA at a Glance

Working with K-12 nonpublic schools across Minnesota to enhance quality programs for the benefit of our children



The MNSAA Mission Statement:

The mission of the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association is to be a catalyst for enhancing the quality of K-12 nonpublic education in Minnesota through a comprehensive process of accreditation.

Who May Seek Accreditation?

MNSAA accredits K-12 elementary and secondary nonpublic schools in Minnesota that have been in existence for at least two years and have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. A nonpublic school is defined as a privately controlled organization in which a MN resident may legally fulfill the compulsory instruction law. It is an institution of learning that has one: unified mission, local governing authority, administration and consistent curriculum. A nonpublic school may consist of one or more buildings.

Why Schools Seek Accreditation

- ✓ Provides a **framework** for the **best possible educational program** for learners.
- ✓ Delivers **recognized credibility** of the quality of the school program in the eyes of stakeholders and the public.
- ✓ Offers **objective outside validation** that a school has met high standards of excellence and is actively seeking a quality educational program.
- ✓ **Assures stakeholders** that the school program and organization periodically undergoes an intensive self-evaluation and a review by unaffiliated educators.
- ✓ Provides for **long-range strategic planning** focused on student achievement and ongoing school improvement.
- ✓ Makes a **public statement** that the school is willing to be measured against rigorous standards.
- ✓ Facilitates a process whereby **staff communication** results in shared commitment to future directions.
- ✓ Offers a **network of educational relationships** for the exchange of ideas and methods to meet student needs.



What are MNSAA Membership Costs?

Member schools of MNSAA pay annual dues on a sliding scale reflective of the number of students enrolled. Costs to schools range between \$290-\$1600—averaging \$2.90 per student annually. Our annual conference is supported by registration fees. There are additional expenses associated with renewal and onsite visits. Reasonable fees for services and benefits are possible because MNSAA utilizes the generosity and talent of volunteers from our membership.

Overview of the Accreditation Process

MNSAA enhances the quality of education through a process of self-evaluation and ongoing improvement. An essential and vital principle is that our schools are evaluated in terms of how well they are guided by their own mission. Respect is given to the differences that exist among accredited schools.

We subscribe to a traditional process of accreditation in which every seven years member schools are required to complete an extensive self-evaluation process based on the seven standards of MNSAA. As a result of this reflection, a school develops a visionary strategic plan for improvement.



The seven accreditation standards of MNSAA:

- Mission & Philosophy • Teaching & Learning
- Climate for Learning • Community Relations
- Personnel • Leadership & Governance
- School Strategic Plan for Improvement

Once the self study and strategic plan are completed, a team of highly qualified, impartial educators visit the school for two to three days to analyze compliance and provide feedback. Schools then respond to the recommendations of the team and adjust their strategic plan for improvement accordingly.

The MNSAA Annual Progress Report

To remain in good standing, schools are required to complete an annual progress report by June 15th. This report gives an account of steps taken to achieve goals, identifies new opportunities or obstacles to growth, outlines communication with stakeholders, and monitors the progress of its learners.