

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

CATEGORY II AND III PRIVATE SCHOOL ACCREDITING AGENCIES

3.500

Policy Sections:

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I. Purpose

In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-3001 and State Board of Education (“State Board”) Rule Chapter 0520-07-01 and 0520-07-02, the State Board is charged with approving private school accrediting agencies that may recognize Category II and III private schools to operate in Tennessee.

This policy sets forth the list of accrediting agencies approved by the State Board to accredit Category II and III private schools in Tennessee.

II. Approved Category II Accrediting Agencies

State Board Rule 0520-07-02-.03 sets forth the process for an accrediting agency to apply for and maintain approval by the State Board as a Category II private school accrediting agency. Approval of Category II accrediting agencies lasts for a period of five (5) years, after which an agency shall re-apply for approval if the agency wishes to continue on the approved list of Category II accrediting agencies.

Agency Name	Approval Period (School Years)
Association of Classical Christian Schools, Inc.	2019-2020 through 2024-2025 July 2024 through July 2029
Association of Christian Schools International	2019-2020 through 2024-2025 July 2024 through July 2029
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools	July 2024 through July 2029
Christian Schools International Accreditation Services	2019-2020 through 2024-2025 July 2024 through July 2029
Diocese of Nashville Catholic Schools Office	2019-2020 through 2024-2025

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Midsouth Association of Independent Schools (formerly Mississippi Association of Independent Schools)	2019-2020 through 2024-2025 July 2024 through July 2029
National Alliance of Christian Schools	July 2024 through July 2029
National Lutheran School Accreditation	2019-2020 through 2024-2025 July 2024 through July 2029
Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists	2019-2020 through 2024-2025 July 2024 through July 2029
Tennessee Association of Christian Schools	2019-2020 through 2024-2025 July 2024 through July 2029
Tennessee Association of Non-Public Academic Schools	2019-2020 through 2024-2025 July 2024 through July 2029

III. Approved Category III Accrediting Agencies

Category III accrediting agencies are regional accrediting agencies approved by the State Board to recognize Category III private schools to operate in Tennessee.

Agency Name
Any accreditation division of Cognia (Formerly AdvancED, SACS)
Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
Middle States Association- Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)
Any accrediting association recognized by the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA) (formerly NAIS Commission on Accreditation) including, but not limited to, the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)
Any accrediting association recognized by the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA)