

Accreditation Talking Points for your Admissions Team

Your school community worked hard to earn its accreditation—an important milestone that shows your commitment to providing the best education possible for students and their families. Now, it's time to capitalize on that hard work by explaining to current and prospective families why they should take Middle States accreditation seriously when making the decision of where to enroll their child.

1. **Focus on Self-Reflection:** Accredited schools engage in a 12-18 month comprehensive self-study process on all aspects of the school programs and operations. This full self-study occurs once every 7 years, but the process also requires periodic reviews at least annually.
2. **Transparency:** Our school invited in a team of peer-educators from other accredited schools to conduct an on-site review of all aspects of our school program including our mission, teaching and learning, and student well-being.
3. **Commitment to Involving the Community of Stakeholders:** The accreditation process requires the involvement of staff, students, parents, and other community members in the self-reflection, team visit, and goal setting for the future.
4. **Professional Development for Faculty:** As an accredited school, we commit to sending out our own teachers/administrators to serve as peer reviewers on accreditation teams to other schools. Therefore, our teachers bring back new ideas and best practices from other schools, which helps our teaching continually evolve and improve.
5. **Culture of Planning:** Planning for the future is a major part of the accreditation process. We are committed to continuous improvement as evidenced through the objectives we have set as a part of our plan for growth and improvement. Members of the admissions team may wish to share these objectives with potential families, so they can see the strategic focuses of the school.
6. **Openness to Feedback/Input:** Accreditation is an optional process—it is not mandated by the government. Our school has made the deliberate decision to seek accreditation and has committed to meeting the standards and expectations of the Middle States Association.
7. **Public Trust:** MSA accreditation validates that a school meets internationally recognized standards of quality. It also affirms that a school represents itself honestly in its stated mission and values.
8. **University Admissions and Grants/Scholarships:** MSA accreditation is recognized across the U.S. and around the world. The accreditation status of a school can also be a requirement for eligibility for some grants and scholarships, as well as university admissions. MSA is also recognized by the Department of Education as a gatekeeper for schools offering Title IV funding.



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