

VAISEF: About Accreditation

What is State Recognized Accreditation?

The Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) oversees accreditation of nonpublic preschool, elementary, and secondary schools in the Commonwealth as authorized by the Virginia Board of Education in §22.1-19 of the Code of Virginia. State recognized accreditation comes through accreditation granted by any VCPE Approved Accrediting Member (*in this case, VAISEF*).

All approved accrediting organizations must meet the VCPE core set of standards. The VCPE peer review process and an annual reporting requirement have been developed to monitor the standards. Each accrediting association has standards that meet and exceed those that are monitored by VCPE and must be considered individually by an interested school.

Why Seek Accreditation?

State recognized accreditation is accountability for private schools in Virginia. Many private schools in Virginia seek accreditation as a means of strengthening their programs and facilities and assuring the public that the published purpose and philosophy of a school are being fulfilled.

Accreditation through a VCPE Approved Accrediting Member guarantees the transfer of student credits from the state recognized accredited private school to a public school and ensures recognition of teacher licensure credits for time served in an accredited private school.

In summary, following are some benefits of accreditation:

- Documents that the school is true to its own foundational statements (mission, philosophy, and goals).
- Affirms that the school meets standards of quality and accountability established by the association.
- Provides validation of the credibility of the school/program through a peer review process.
- Promotes accountability to the school community and impacts parental contentment.
- Promotes on-going institutional improvement through a continuous process of self-assessment and systematic school/program development.
- Guarantees the transfer of credits between nonpublic and public schools.
- Provides a complete review and written documentation of school program.
- Gives purpose and direction for long-range strategic planning.

Requirement for Accurate Representation of Your School's Accreditation Status and Relationship with VCPE and the Virginia Department of Education

Each association and school as part of the Virginia Council for Private Education (VCPE) is required to represent its affiliation or accreditation status within the State of Virginia clearly and accurately.

The model to be used by schools accredited by a VCPE approved accreditation process:

(School's Name) is accredited by VAISEF, whose accreditation process has been approved by the Virginia Council for Private Education as authorized by the Virginia State Board of Education.

Any school affiliated with VAISEF that is not fully accredited, may not use any VCPE statements regarding accreditation.

Only schools accredited by recognized VCPE Associations may publish the VCPE Logo on their website.