

# Showcase your program

Confirm the quality of your institution  
and signify your dedication to excellence  
with Early Learning Accreditation and  
STEM Certification from Cognia

Based on rigorous, research-based standards and best practices, Cognia Accreditation and STEM Certification for early learning schools help you meet high standards and publicly display your dedication to excellence. Detailed evaluations conducted by peer educators generate responsive feedback suggesting how to build on strengths and address areas of need.

## Support for your growth

With Cognia's process in accreditation and certification, you'll gain:

- Access to a range of resources from Cognia, including a framework, standards, and personalized support system
- Collaboration with a professional regional accreditation evaluator in a proven process that helps you establish your vision and take concrete steps to achieve it
- New insights and perspectives through self-assessment and guided questions in our workbook
- A centralized digital data library on the Cognia Improvement Platform to integrate your accreditation and continuous improvement efforts
- Comprehensive analysis to build on your successes and drive continuous improvement

**Cognia® is a global nonprofit organization that helps preK–12 education providers around the world focus on high-quality teaching and learning, organizational excellence, and effectiveness through standards-based Performance Accreditation and STEM Certification.**

## Key characteristics of high-quality schools

Embedded into our standards are four key characteristics for high-quality schools. For STEM Certification, these characteristics are tailored to develop best practices for STEM's inquiry-based learning environment.

Culture of Learning

Engagement of Learning

Leadership in Learning

Growth of Learning

## Accreditation and continuous improvement

The Cognia Performance Standards for Early Learning Schools articulate a common set of learning outcomes and expectations that set young children on a path toward expanded opportunities.

During Cognia's accreditation process, a specially trained independent team of educators known as the "Engagement Review team" examines the whole school—its programs, cultural context, and stakeholder community—to determine how well the parts work together to meet the needs of young learners.

The goal of accreditation goes beyond a stamp of approval. Rather, it is to encourage a continuous improvement journey, and provide a mark of excellence you can share with pride.

## Setting a standard for STEM excellence

Cognia's STEM Certification is the first of its kind, providing recognition for early learning programs that demonstrate a strong and effective STEM focus.

During a STEM Certification Engagement Review, a Regional Accreditation Evaluator will look for these hallmarks of quality, gleaned from robust research: problem-based experiential learning and components of STEM thinking integrated into a broad range of activities and learning opportunities.

STEM certification from Cognia empowers you to:

- Encourage enrollment with a unique differentiator
- Convey to parents and staff your commitment to high-quality early learning STEM education
- Build awareness in your community and increase expectations for early learning STEM education

“

We work in a tech heavy area, so STEM Certification is a valuable accomplishment to share with our parents and potential partners. It is absolutely worth the investment. The process itself was valuable.”

—STEM program leader

### Accreditation and Certification Process

- 1 Join the Cognia Improvement Network
- 2 Learn about the standards and Cognia tools and resources
- 3 Prepare materials and plan for the Engagement Review
- 4 Participate in a virtual or onsite Engagement Review
- 5 Receive feedback, recommendations, and final report
- 6 Gain Accreditation or Certification status from Cognia's Global Commission

Achieve the recognition you deserve.

Contact us:

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cognia.org