Engage in a holistic process

Cognia® Performance Accreditation recognizes non-public institutions that are committed to sustainable continuous improvement. These schools use standards-based protocols and a holistic approach to empower students to succeed. The accreditation and improvement journey for each institution may look different, but it always includes measures of quality learning and instruction.

The Cognia difference

Cognia accreditation brings an impartial outside perspective from trained evaluators—seasoned educators just like you. These experts apply their learned experiences from many accreditation reviews to the unique circumstances of your school and community. Evaluators use Cognia’s set of rigorous, research-based performance standards that have been intentionally written to cover different school models, and are evaluated in the context of your non-public institution.

The Path to Cognia Accreditation

MEMBER → APPLICANT → CANDIDATE → ACCREDITED
Charting your forward path

Our accreditation process is unique. Unlike other accreditors, we don't look back. After all, you're not going that way. By design, our continuous improvement model is forward-thinking and considers your current reality as well as future social, technological, economic, and political trends that may influence your students' learning. We collaborate with you to seek input from various stakeholder groups to shape short- and long-term objectives. And, once those objectives have been set, we help monitor progress at key milestones, celebrate your successes, and change course when needed.

Resources that drive improvement

Cognia accreditation is supported with unparalleled tools and resources. During the accreditation process and beyond, you can access digital observation tools, various stakeholder surveys, and diagnostics that help you measure key components of school quality and student engagement. Additionally, a dedicated local expert stands ready to respond to your needs.

In good company

With more than 125 years of accreditation experience, our rich history has shaped the accreditation process and continues to redefine it. More than 7,000 non-public schools in the United States entrust Cognia as an accreditation partner that examines the whole institution, so every part is moving in one direction.

Education providers that earn Cognia Accreditation are awarded that recognition by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), which comprise three of the six regionally recognized K–12 accrediting bodies. Accreditation with Cognia is more than a stamp of approval. It is a sign of your deep commitment to student learning and places you in very good company.