



September 1, 2021

Dear Colleagues in Christ,

The annual meeting of the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) National Accreditation Commission (NAC) was held July 28-29, 2021 to affirm Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) schools and conduct the business of NLSA. Additionally, minutes from the Candidate Review Committee and NAC meetings will be posted on LuthEd.org in September.

The National Accreditation Commission (NAC) acted on the following items:

1. NAC affirmed the recommendations of the Candidate Review Committee and awarded accreditation to **126** schools bringing the total number of accredited schools to **678**. Formal letters affirming accreditation were sent to each school the first week in August.
2. It was affirmed by NAC, that an adjustment to the NLSA annual fee (adopted by NAC in 2019 and adjusted in 20) is enacted with the following rate schedule:

2021-2022: \$700

2022-2023: \$750

3. It was affirmed by NAC, effective July 29, 2021, that Pandemic Extensions will not be issued to schools with Validation Team Visits scheduled for the 2021-2022 school year. A traditional NLSA extension will be available for schools facing extenuating circumstances. Please note that schools that are currently extended are not eligible for an additional year of extension in their current cycle.

To apply for a traditional extension, a school must submit the following components no later than later than March 1 of the school's accreditation year:

- A district approved *NLSA Application for Accreditation* on file in the national office;
- A completed and signed *NLSA Extension Application Form*;
- A complete description of the extenuating circumstances resulting in the request;
- A written endorsement by the district education executive; and
- A \$200 extension fee accompanying the application

The national office will convene the NLSA Executive Committee for review and final approval. Schools approved (or denied) for the extension will receive written notification from the national office. Updated accreditation certificates will be sent to schools approved for the extension. An extension approved by the Executive Committee is valid for a period of one year and is not renewable.

4. It was affirmed by NAC that as a result of the generally improved situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lessening of external visitor restrictions impacting Lutheran schools, Virtual Validation Team Visits will be limited to only schools with demonstratable, documented, extenuating circumstances.

The NLSA Executive Committee will review the application of a school with documented evidence of the circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Refer to the *National Lutheran School Accreditation Virtual Validation Team Policy and Procedure* document on Luthed.org for more information about the application process for schools.

5. Due to the challenges faced by Lutheran schools during the 2020-2021 school year related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sharing of Powerful Practices was suspended during the 2020-2021 school year. Three schools of 7 schools identified in 2019 were able to share their Powerful Practices in 2019-2020. The remaining 4 schools in 2019, 5 schools identified by NAC in 2020, and 10 identified in 2021 will share their Powerful Practices in 2021-2022.

Each school will be contacted and given the following options for sharing their Powerful Practice information:

- Development of a print article; and/or
- Production of a video presentation recording

2021-2022

- Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis Tenn. – Extracurricular Program
- Concordia University, Chicago ECEC, River Forest, Ill. – EC SCALE Curriculum
- Faith Lutheran Academy, Las Vegas, Nev. – Mission Calendar
- Lutheran High School North, Macomb, Mich. – Student Marketing Internship
- Messiah Lutheran School, Weldon Spring, Mo. – Character Trait Project
- Our Shepherd Lutheran School; Birmingham, Mich. – Multisensory Learning
- Springfield Lutheran School, Springfield, Mo. – Student Led Personalized Science
- St. John’s Lutheran School; Columbus, Neb. – Raising Up Disciples
- St. Matthew Lutheran School; Walled Lake, Mich. – Apologetics Program
- St. Paul’s Lutheran School; Concordia, Mo. – Middle School Mentoring Program

6. A progress report was provided for the Armature Online Submission Project noting the following:

- Phase One is complete.
- Phase Two is scheduled to begin and will consist of the following components:
 - NLSA Instrument Review (EBA and EC)
 - Process Management from start to finish
 - Reporting Functions
 - Project Management
 - DevOps and Deployment to Beta Testing

- The budget for Armature was provided.
 - A timeline for completion was shared.
7. Changes in NLSA protocols will be incorporated in the NLSA documents and posted on LuthEd.org on September 1.
 8. It was affirmed that the NLSA NAC will conduct a virtual Mid-year meeting on Thursday, Dec. 9, 9:00am – 4:00pm to address 2021 recommendations from districts regarding NLSA.
 9. Chairman Keith Wilharm, Northern Illinois District NLSA Commissioner was thanked and honored for his faithful service to NAC. It was affirmed by NAC that the following members of the Executive Committee will serve in the coming year:
 - Chairman – Joel Wahlers, CNH district education executive
 - Chairman Elect – DJ Schult, NW district education executive
 - Secretary – Matthew Schleicher, Texas district NLSA commission vice chair

We thank the NLSA Executive Committee, the Candidate Review Committee and the National Accreditation Commission for their dedicated work on behalf of schools.

In His Service and yours,



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