



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Dr. Don D. Petry
Executive Director

TO: Whom It May Concern

FROM: Dr. Don D. Petry, Executive Director
National Council for Private School Accreditation
P. O. Box 13686
Seattle, Washington 98198-1010

DATE: April 26, 2004

RE: Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges & Universities
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

The Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges & Universities is a founding member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation and was officially recognized in June 1994 for full membership.

All NCPSA full recognized members have been recommended by the U.S. Department of Education (draft circular attached) for F-1 non-immigration students. Questions regarding AASAS or NCPSA status with the USDOE should be referred to:

Mr. Jack Klenk
Director
Specialist
Office of Nonpublic Education
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-3600
PHONE: (202) 401-1365
FAX: (202) 401-1368
E-mail: OIINon-PublicEducation@ed.gov

or to:

E. Stephen Hunt, Ph.D.
Senior International Affairs
Manager, USNEI
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, NW, Rm. 6W242
Washington, D.C. 20202
PHONE: (202) 401-3710
FAX: (202) 401-2508
E-mail: Stephen.Hunt@ed.gov

Thank you for consideration of this accredited private school's application to receive non-immigrant F-1 foreign students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Don D. Petry



March 19, 2004

Note: Below is a set of guidelines that the Office of Non-Public Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (ICE/DHS) and the International Affairs Staff of the U.S. Department of Education. ICE/DHS has adopted these recommendations as the criteria that it will use to assess the eligibility of individual private elementary and secondary schools for enrolling nonimmigrant (F-1, M-1, J-1) foreign students. These guidelines were made part of the ICE/DHS official procedures for its SEVIS certification process in February of 2004 and are now in use.

U.S. Department of Education Recommendation to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) for the Adjudication of Form I-17, Petition for Approval of Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), is responsible for the review and adjudication of Form I-17, Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student.

Title 8 Code of Federal Regulations Section 214.3 details the various requirements that petitioning private elementary and secondary schools must meet for approval eligibility. To this end, the U.S. Department of Education, through its Office of Non-Public Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, hereby recommends that private (non-public) elementary or secondary schools providing evidence of one or more of the following criteria meet the definition of a school "accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body" as set forth in 8 CFR 214.3(b)(2).

- Approval or accreditation by a State using its accreditation, licensing, registration, or other approval standards;
- Approval or accreditation by a local educational agency using local- or State-approved accreditation, licensing, registration, or other approval standards; or
- Accreditation by one of the regional accrediting associations¹;
- Accreditation by an accrediting association holding full membership status in the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPISA)²;
- Accreditation or successful evaluation by an organization holding full membership in the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA)³;
- Accreditation or successful evaluation by an organization holding full membership in the Council for American Private Education (CAPE)⁴;
- Full membership in and accreditation or approval by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) or the American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS); or
- Accreditation by an accrediting association recognized by the National Association of Independent Schools.

In cases where a school presents evidence of accreditation other than noted above,

DHS/ICE/SEVP should contact the Department of Education, Office of Non-Public Education regarding the bona fides of private elementary or secondary schools. Contact: Office of Non-Public Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20202; Ph: (202) 401- 1365; Fax: (202) 401-1368; E-mail: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oii/nonpublic/index.html>.

¹ The regional accrediting association commissions that accredit elementary and secondary schools currently include:

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary and Middle Schools;
New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission of Independent Schools;
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement;
Northwest Association of Schools and of Colleges and Universities Commission on Schools;
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary and Middle Schools; and
Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Schools

² Members of the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA) currently include:

Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges and Universities;
Alabama Independent School Association;
Association of Christian Schools International;
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools – Assemblies of God;
Association of Independent Schools of Florida;
Association of Waldorf Schools of North America;
Christian Schools International;
Christian Schools of Florida;
Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools;
International Christian Accrediting Association;
Kentucky Nonpublic School Commission;
Montessori School Accreditation Commission;
National Christian School Association; and
National Independent Private Schools Association

³ Members of the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA) currently include:

Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities;
Alabama Independent School Association;
Association of Christian Schools International;
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools-Assemblies of God;
Association of Independent Schools of Florida;
Association of Waldorf Schools of North America;
Christian Schools International;
Christian Schools of Florida;
Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools;
International Christian Accrediting Association;
Kentucky Nonpublic School Commission;
Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation;
Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary and Middle Schools;
Montessori School Accreditation Commission;
National Christian Schools Association;
National Council for Private School Accreditation;
National Independent Private School Association;
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement;
Northwest Association of Schools and of Colleges and Universities Commission on Schools;

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary and Middle Schools;
Southern Association of Colleges on Secondary and Middle Schools; and
Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Schools

⁴ Members of the Council of America Private Education (CAPE) currently include:

Christian Schools International;
Association of Christian Schools International;
State CAPE Network Representative;
National Catholic Educational Association;
American Montessori Society;
Association Montessori Internationale, USA;
Association of Waldorf Schools of N.A.;
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;
Friends Council on Education;
Hattie M. Strong Foundation;
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
National Association of Episcopal Schools;
National Association of Independent Schools;
National Christian School Association;
Palm, Inc.;
Seventh-day Adventist Board of Education, K-12;
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism;
Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools;
Toussaint Institute for Historically Black Independent Schools; and
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops