



Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools
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POLICY 5.1 STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION

The Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools shall adopt research-based Standards for Accreditation reflective of best practices for education institutions to serve as the basis for accreditation actions and for institutional improvement efforts.

- 5.1.1. Unique Standards for Accreditation. The Commissions may adopt different Standards for Accreditation that address the uniqueness of categories of the Commissions' accredited institutions with the proviso that all accredited and candidate institutions shall be required to meet high standards of quality appropriate to the type and nature of the institutions.
- 5.1.2. Institutional Participation in the Development of Standards for Accreditation. The Commissions shall provide advance notice to accredited and candidate institutions of proposed new or revised Standards for Accreditation and provide adequate opportunity to comment on the proposed Standards prior to their adoption.
- 5.1.3. Notice of New or Revised Standards for Accreditation. The Commissions shall provide notice of the effective date for new or revised Standards for Accreditation to permit affected institutions adequate opportunity to prepare to meet the new/revised Standards. Notice shall be at six months prior to the date on which the new/revised Standards will go into effect.
- 5.1.4. Comprehensive Reviews of the Standards for Accreditation. The Commissions shall conduct a comprehensive review of their Standards for Accreditation at every five years unless other factors warrant a more frequent review. [See MSA-CESS Policy 6.2.3. for further detail on standards review processes for postsecondary institutions.]

5.1.5. Acceptance of the Standards for Accreditation of Other Accrediting Agencies.

- a. The Commissions may permit accredited and/or candidate institutions to seek accreditation or reaccreditation on the basis of Standards for Accreditation of organizations with which the commissions have a cooperative agreement and that have been approved by the Commissions for use by its accredited/candidate institutions..
- b. Prior to permitting the use of the Standards of another organization, the Commissions' staff will undertake an examination of those Standards to ensure they are closely aligned with the Commissions' Standards for Accreditation.
- c. Upon determination that the cooperating organization's Standards are closely aligned with the Commissions' Standards, the cooperating agency's Standards shall be submitted to the Commissions for their approval.

Action	Date	Notes
Initial Adoption by MSA-CSS	April 15, 2011	
Initial Adoption by MSA-CES	October 28, 2011	
Revisions		