

PAIS

THE VALUE *of*
MEMBERSHIP





WHO WE ARE

Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) is the state association serving over 120 independent schools across Pennsylvania and Delaware. PAIS is governed by Board Members composed largely of Heads of School from our member schools. Our diverse membership includes single sex schools, coeducational schools, religiously affiliated schools, schools for children with learning differences, small and large day schools, and boarding schools. PAIS offers services which strengthen member schools, including collaborative dialogues on school issues, professional development programs, advocacy and vital communication on governmental affairs, and an adaptive and strategic accreditation process.

HOW WE SERVE OUR MEMBER SCHOOLS

ACCREDITATION

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

CONNECTIONS



ACCREDITATION

Accrediting member schools, in lieu of state licensing, while providing support and resources on their pathway to a successful and transformative accreditation experience.



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Acting as a voice and a liaison for our schools within the state legislature and department of education and communicating vital information.

ADAPTABLE

Visiting Committees constructed with school type and needs in mind and an additional Standard included for schools with specific identities.

CURRENT

Through association with the International Council on Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA), and communication with peer Associations, ongoing monitoring of Accreditation trends and developments.

EFFICIENT

Simplified compliance writing allowing more time for thoughtful discussion and an efficient scoring process providing a comprehensive school overview.

RELEVANT

Standards and Indicators reflecting current social issues and trends in education.

STRATEGIC

A Self-Study section encouraging schools to reflect upon and think strategically on broad areas of school life - People, Program, Perception, Prosperity, Place.

ADVOCACY

Advocacy on behalf of our member schools with local government decision-makers, as well as representation of local school interests in response to issues critical to school operations.

LEGAL RESOURCES

Legal professionals on retainer, with extensive educational experience, to safeguard the interest of Pennsylvania and Delaware member schools.

MONITORING

Through association with the Pennsylvania Affiliate of the Council on American Private Education (PA CAPE), ongoing monitoring of Pennsylvania legislative affairs and national regulatory and legislative developments. Timely updates communicated to Heads of School, disseminating relevant information.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Offering dynamic in-person and virtual programs that are engaging, relevant, and responsive to the needs and interests of our diverse community of educators.



CONNECTIONS

Building and strengthening collaborative relationships and networks that provide the opportunity for peer support and thoughtful exchange.

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

Current and relevant topics in education through practical and engaging sessions with renowned thought leaders and presenters from PAIS schools.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COHORTS (PLCs)

An immersive community experience with colleagues from PAIS schools to explore trending topics or for a collective purpose.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Topics of critical importance covered during during half-day, full-day or multiple-day in-person events with keynote speakers and colleagues from PAIS schools.

INSTITUTES

Signature programs focused on professional development and personal growth through transformative, year-long cohort based programs.

MENTORING

Through school-to-school mentoring, assisting schools who seek expertise in creating, growing or substantially changing a program, by identifying and connecting them with a partner member school who possesses the expertise and experience in that area. Mentoring relationships coordinated among leaders in member schools who seek to grow through professional relationships with a more experienced colleague.

NETWORKING

Through virtual and in-person gatherings, as well as listservs, communities of colleagues in similar roles, and with similar identities, connect, communicate and collaborate. Peer educators share ideas, ask questions, and discuss relevant topics.

OUR COMMITMENT *to* MEMBER SCHOOLS

PAIS is committed to a highly valued menu of services that support and empower our member schools. We guide our members through an adaptive, strategic accreditation process; we advocate for independent schools; and we cultivate a warm, professional association where vibrant exchange inspires educators to deliver programs rooted in best practices.



OUR EXPECTATION *of* MEMBER SCHOOLS

Membership in PAIS is a commitment to contribute to the betterment of our fellow member schools. Therefore, when a school is accepted as a member of PAIS, it not only means a commitment to participate and contribute to the accreditation process and professional learning programs, but it also means adherence to our membership and accreditation standards, as well as acknowledgment of and aspiration to fulfill the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Principles of Good Practice.

CONTACT US

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