

# MINIMUM K-12 STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS ACCREDITED BY A FAANS “ACCREDITING MEMBER”

**1. Governance:** The school must be organized as a for-profit or not-for-profit Florida Corporation.

**2. Philosophy and Objectives:** Each accredited school shall be required to have a concise, clearly written statement of its philosophy and objectives in order to guide the academic program and the overall development of its students.

**3. Curriculum:** Each school shall have a curriculum consistent with its philosophy and objectives. It shall be designed to fill effectively the needs of the students enrolled. Offerings shall be organized sequentially and described in current written curriculum guides and courses of study by subject and grade level.

**4. School Plant and Facilities:** Each school’s plant and equipment shall be suited to the purpose and adequate for the total program of each school. School buildings must be in compliance with local and state zoning laws and health, safety, fire and sanitation codes.

**5. Faculty and Administrative Staff:** The school professional staff must meet criteria established by the accrediting body which are suitable to the program and mission of the school. The criteria must address the requirements of degrees and/or certification as well as criminal background checks and any other state regulation applicable to nonpublic schools for the health and safety of students as required by law.

**6. School Calendar and Class Hours:** The school year shall have a minimum of 180 actual school days OR a minimum of 170 actual school days and the hourly equivalent of 180 actual school days determined as prescribed below:

- Kindergarten: 540 net instructional hours
- Grades 1-3 720 net instructional hours
- Grades 4-12 900 net instructional hours

**7. Accountability/Student Assessments:** Students in K-12 grades of each accredited school must take a nationally recognized Standardized Test each year. The tests, which are used to measure academic knowledge, include narrative summaries, process and cluster summaries, and graphic displays to clarify the student's performance and guide planning and analysis. Administrators obtain critical data to document and monitor the progress of all children and to disaggregate results according to federal mandates. Teachers receive specific information to support instructional planning for individual students and the class as well as to improve their teaching. Results enable Parents better understand their child's academic achievement levels.

**8. Student/Teacher Ratios.** Schools must maintain ratios in accordance with FAANS Early Childhood Education (ECE) Standards. Ratios for Grades 1 thru 12 must meet or exceed State Standards and/or must comply with the Standards of their accrediting Association(s).

**9. Transfer of Student Records/Data:** Standards shall insure the maintenance and safekeeping of accurate student records and the provision of a transcript indicating work covered by students. Defunct schools shall transfer all permanent information contained in

student records to the Superintendent of Schools of the public district in which the nonpublic school was located; or if the school is a member of a nonpublic school system or association, such school May transfer such records to the central office of such system or association.

**10. Academic Program:** The school must have a published Curriculum consistent with its philosophy and objectives designed to effectively satisfy the academic, moral and ethical development of all students enrolled.

**11. Financial Records/Accounting:** The financial resources and management of the school shall be such as to sustain an educational program consistent with its philosophy and objectives. Evidence of financial stability in the form of a Financial Statement shall be prepared annually and be available for review by the Accrediting Association during evaluations.

**12. Library/Media Center:** The centralized or decentralized library/media center should provide current, adequate reference print and non-print materials for the needs of the students.

**13. Technology:** The school provides adequate technology and technology staff and infrastructure to support its mission and philosophy.

**14. Health and Safety:** All schools shall meet all applicable local and state laws relating to fire protections, safety, sanitation, and health. Evidence of evacuation drills and emergency procedures must also be required.

**15. Emergency Procedures:** All schools must have clearly defined written and published emergency procedures policies.

**16. Non-Discriminatory Policies:** All schools must issue statements of non-discrimination, stating that they do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national, or ethnic origin.

**17. Laws and Regulations:** Accreditation Standards must require each school to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

**18. Accreditation Procedures:** The procedure established by an accrediting member for a school to achieve accredited status must include the following or its equivalent:

- a. Self-Study: Schools are required to engage in a self-study process prior to being reviewed by a Visiting Committee.
- b. Visiting Committee: A committee of educators from other accredited schools in Florida will visit the school to assure compliance with the Standards of the Accrediting Association.
- c. Accreditation Status: On the basis of the Visiting Committee Report, the school is then granted (or not granted) accredited status for a given period.
- d. Annual Reports: An ongoing program of improvement, to include renewal of accredited status, is then conducted by accredited schools. These improvements may be documented by reports, on-site visits or periodic reviews. Accredited schools must submit annual Reports or Surveys providing updated detailed information, including any changes in programs, status, mission and faculty members, to their Accrediting Association.