



Mission – NLSA encourages and recognizes schools that provide quality Christian education and engage in continuous improvement.

NLSA Director's Report December 10, 2020

In July, the NLSA National Accreditation Commission (NAC) awarded accreditation to **38** schools bringing the total number of accredited schools to **671**. Formal letters and certificates affirming accreditation were sent to each school the first week of August.

Rev. Jonathan Dinger, Senior Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church and School, Pocatello, Idaho is selected as the 2020 NLSA School Shepherd.

It was affirmed by NAC that the NLSA annual fee remains at \$650 during the extended time of the pandemic in 2020-2021 with the understanding that the fee will increase to \$700 in 2021-2022.

Schools were invoiced in September with the following results as of Dec. 7. Annual fees have been received from all schools except the following:

Unpaid Fees	16
NLSA Schools On Hiatus	1
Schools Lapsing Accreditation	5

Policy and Procedures were discussed by the Executive Committee to address NLSA schools *On Hiatus*. See separate report proposal.

It was affirmed by NAC that NLSA will offer a Pandemic Extension to schools with Validation Team Visits scheduled for the 2020-2021 school year (including schools currently working with an extension). The Pandemic Extension Application was posted Nov. 1.

Extensions 2018	29
Pandemic Extensions 2019	132 (15 of 132 initially applying for accreditation)
Pandemic Extensions 2020	21

It was affirmed by NAC that schools may have the option of conducting a Virtual Validation Team Visit when it is not possible to conduct an in-person site visit. The *NLSA Virtual Validation Team Visit Process Manual* is completed.

Schools applying for a Virtual Validation Team Visit	5
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The preparation of the Validation Team Member Training Materials (Team Member Manual and Training Resources) is delayed with the focus of developing pandemic resources and procedures.

A Task Force is appointed to review and revise the Evidence Based (EBA) protocol to better meet the accreditation needs of secondary schools. Task Force members are:

Dr. Craig Ernstmeyer; Lutheran High School of St. Charles, St. Charles, Mo.
Scott Fogo; Faith Lutheran Middle and High School, Las Vegas, Nev.
Steve Garrabrant; Lutheran South Academy, Houston, Texas
Matthew Schleicher; Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball, Texas

It was affirmed by NAC that 9 Powerful Practice webinars are offered for 2020-2021. With the continued impact of the pandemic, schools are given an option to submit a written article and/or a recorded webinar.

The Virginia Council of Private Education (VCPE) renewed its recognition of NLSA in November.

Progress continues with Armature Solutions in the development of an online platform for NLSA. See separate report.

Matthew Bergholt, Kristin Freeman and I thank the NLSA Executive Committee, Candidate Review Committee and the National Accreditation Commission for their dedicated work on behalf of schools.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rebecca S. Schmidt, Ed.D.
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