

MERKOS L'INYONEI CHINUCH

CENTRAL ORGANIZATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD



**ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW
BASIC STANDARDS
AND
APPLICATION FORM**



APPLICATION PROCESS:
PROSPECTIVE SCHOOLS SEEKING ACCREDITATION ELIGIBILITY STATUS

Introduction

In order for a prospective school to be accredited through the Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch National Accreditation Board, the school must successfully: (1) comply with the Initial Application Requirements; (2) complete the self-study process – which includes the completion of a self-study and the development of a (strategic) school improvement plan, and (3) host an on-site accreditation team visit.

What follows are the practical steps prospective schools need to take in order to apply for accreditation eligibility status.

INITIAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The first step for prospective schools seeking *Accreditation Eligibility Status* is to submit the following initial application requirements:

- A) **A Letter of Intent from the School Head** indicating that s/he has reviewed the application process, the basic standards for accreditation and the manual of principles and standards, with the governing authority and school/education committee.

- B) **A Letter of Intent from the Governing Body** of the school indicating that they have reviewed the application procedures, the principles and standards, and they understand the requirements of the accreditation process. This letter should state the governing authority is committed to ensure that the school will meet all requirements for accreditation.

- C) **A Completed Application Form and,**

- D) **Payment of the Application Fee**
(See current Fee Schedule)

INITIAL REVIEW

Upon receipt of the initial application requirements, the director of the National Accreditation Board will either immediately review the application, or at his/her discretion appoint a representative(s) of the board to make a preliminary visit.

The purpose of a visit is to review the initial application requirements on-site and ascertain the readiness of the school to continue the application process. The representative(s) will then submit a written report of its findings to the director.

Whichever method of review is chosen, the director shall communicate the findings to the administrator of the prospective member school.

- If the findings are that the school has not met the initial application requirements, the report will outline the necessary actions the school needs to undertake to satisfy the requirements.
- If the findings are that the school has met the initial application requirements, the school shall be considered a candidate for accreditation within the association and will be granted *pre-accreditation (eligibility)* status.

Upon being accepted as a candidate, the school shall be granted a period of no more than eighteen months to finish the application process – this includes the completion of the self study (including strategic improvement plan) and the site accreditation team visit. If the self-study and visit are not completed within the eighteen month time frame, the school should inform the director of the circumstances preventing its completion, at his discretion the school may be given an extension or the school may be required to begin the application procedures anew.

SCHOOL SELF STUDY

Schools accepted as candidates for accreditation mat proceed with the self-study process. The self-study process includes two components:

- Completion of a **Self-Study**.
(See List of approved self-study instruments)
- Development of a long range **Strategic Improvement Plan**.

A Letter of Information from the School Head is required in the early stages of the self-study process. The information requested is as follows:

- 1) A timeline of the self-study process.
- 2) The name of the self-study instrument to be used.
 - N.S.S.E. EVALUATIVE CRITERIA or similar instrument.
 - N.S.S.E. INDICATORS OF SCHOOLS of QUALITY or similar instrument.
- 3) A statement of how the various groups which form the steering committee, the board of trustees and educational committee will be involved on the self-study process and how they will be informed of the outcome.

ON-SITE ACCREDITATION TEAM VISIT

Following the self-study process, the school will host an on-site accreditation team visit. (See standard 2.2)

TEAM REPORT

Following the on-site visitation, the team will create a report to be distributed to the prospective school and the National Accreditation Board. In this report will be included the findings and recommendations for their visit. Upon receipt of this report the board will make a determination as to the accredited status of the school, in addition to the accreditation eligibility status. (See standard 2.2.7)

REACCREDITATION/RENEWAL PROCESS

INITIAL ACCREDITATION/AND FOLLOW UP

Upon receiving the MERKOS L'INYONEI CHINUCH National Accreditation, member schools are granted *Accredited Status*, and issued formal accreditation certificates and will become eligible to apply for CITA accreditation.

- After the first year, a report on the progress of the recommendations of the visiting team and strategic improvement plan will be completed by the school.
 - Three years after initial recommendation, a follow-up conference will be held. Its purpose being to review the continued compliance with all standards and a review of the strategic improvement plan's implementation status.
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INITIAL RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

- During the sixth and seventh year after initial accreditation, a new self-study will be undertaken.
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ON-SITE ACCREDITATION TEAM VISIT

At the conclusion of the seventh year self-study, schools are required to host an on-site accreditation team visit. (See guidelines for on-site accreditation team visits).

TEAM REPORT

Follow the on-site visit, the team will create a report to be distributed to the school and the National Accreditation Board. In this report will be included the findings and recommendations from their visit. Upon receipt of this report the board will make a determination as to the permanent accredited status of the school.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR CONTINUED ACCREDITATION

An annual report on continued accreditation will be filed each year by the accreditation school.

1. CANDIDACY STANDARDS

- 1.1 The primary purpose of the sponsoring organization is to operate a Yeshiva Day School and to educate Jewish children in both Judaic and general studies.
- 1.2 The school is chartered, licensed, and meets applicable federal, state, and local laws in all its operations.
- 1.3 Facilities and funding are adequate to offer an educational program on pre-school, elementary or high school levels.
- 1.4 The administration and staff are appropriately qualified for their assigned duties.
- 1.5 Provisions are made to account for students attendance, academic progress, personal growth, health and safety.
- 1.6 The philosophy and goals of the school have been appropriately articulated and published.
- 1.7 All of the school's operations are open to evaluation by the National Accreditation Board of MERKOS L'INYONEI CHINUCH.
- 1.8 The school operations are guided by Halachic requirements in all matters.
- 1.9 The school has published a statement of non-discriminatory policy.

2. SELF-STUDY AND EVALUATION STANDARDS

- 2.1 A clearly stated philosophy of Jewish education, setting forth the examined beliefs of the school's faculty, administration, and policy making authority about the education of its students as well as the school's mission and goals has been published.
- 2.2 There is a study of the school and its community * which describes and analyzes the students the school serves, the community in which they reside, and the resources the community offers in support of the educational activities of the school.
- 2.3 Learning and pupil services are evaluated in the light of the philosophy of the school, i.e. that they implement in fact what the philosophy states in theory.
- 2.4 The outcome of the educational experience are evaluated and the evaluations reveal results which are representatives of Yeshiva or Day School education in general and meet reasonable expectations of the community served by the school.
- 2.5 The resources of the school are evaluated in the light of its philosophy, areas of learning, and student services.
- 2.6 The evaluative judgments by the faculty are stated in the self-study.
- 2.7 The visiting team confirms that the data and analysis in the self-study report accurately reflect the state of affairs in the school.
- 2.8 The visiting team confirms that the self-study is a cooperative and well organized institutional effort and the faculty knows the content of the self-study report.
- 2.9 The visiting team confirms that the materials used to publicize the school and its services accurately reflect the school's offerings to students.
- 2.10 The team confirms that no significant element of the self-study is omitted from the self-study report.
- 2.11 The visiting team confirms that the school evaluated itself in relation to its stated philosophy and identified needs of its community.
- 2.12 The visiting team report confirms that the team had a full experience ** of the school and is satisfied that its judgments of the school are dependable.
- 2.13 The school develops a strategic action plan for its long term improvement.

3. OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

- 3.1 The governing body of the school established policies and has instituted consistent procedures and regulations to implement the policies. It maintains the continuity of school events and demonstrates an effective grasp of problems that may arise.
- 3.2 In all matters requirements of Halacha are paramount. The school must identify the halachic authority to whom it refers its halachic questions.
- 3.3 Evaluation (both formal and informal) is an effective and continuing aspect of school experience.
- 3.4 The education personal resources, physical plant and fiscal management are representative of Yeshiva Day School practice recommended by Torah Umesorah or the Chinuch Office of Merkos and are sufficient and so deployed as to implement the purposes of the school and assure the health and safety of its students.
- 3.5 Relationships are professional, productive, and conducive to cooperative action.
- 3.6 Communications are accurate and convey information to all who need it.

4. DEVELOPMENTAL STANDARDS

- 4.1 The school maintains projections of enrollment, income, expenditures, and other matters which bear heavily upon controlled development.
 - 4.2 The school has models for the analysis of student experience which produce understandings useful in improving its quality.
 - 4.3 The school maintains planning procedures that include participation by representative elements of the school's faculty and community which guide a continuous effort to improve the quality of its service.
 - 4.4 The school's policy making authority is committed to goals of demonstrated strategic merit.
- * Community Study includes the students, their families, the network of groups and institutions with which the school interacts, the school's governance, and the school's finances.
- **Interviewed all who has a leading role in the self-study
 - Visited all classrooms and teaching settings
 - Interviewed the policy making authority
 - Interviewed students
 - Interview parents

MERKOS L'INYONEI CHINUCH • CENTRAL ORGONIZATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION
NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD APPLICATION

DATE: _____

I. SCHOOL NAME/ADDRESS:

Official Name of School _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Branches _____

Affiliated With: _____

Corporate Name: _____

Incorporated In: _____

State

Year

Registered In: _____

State (attach registration certificate)

Accredited By: _____

II. GOVERNING BODY

Officer of the Board

Name/Title _____

Address _____

Name/Title _____

Address _____

Name/Title _____

Address _____

Name/Title _____

Address _____

III. SCHOOL HEAD(S):

Name of School Head _____
Official Title _____

Address _____

Name of School Head _____
Official Title _____

Address _____

ASSISTANTS/DEPUTIES

Name _____
Title _____

Address _____

Name _____
Title _____

Address _____

IV. SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Grade Served	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool	No. of classes ___to___	No. of students	
			Boys	Girls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elementary	___to___	___	___
			Boys	Girls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Secondary	___to___	___	___
			Boys	Girls

Total Enrollment _____

V. FACULTY:

No. Preschool Teachers: _____ Assistants: _____

No. of Elementary School Teachers: Judaic(full)___ (P/T)___ General(full) ___ P/T___

No. of Secondary School Teachers: Judaic(full) ___ (P/T)___ General(full) ___ P/T___

No. of Special Education Teachers: Judaic(full) ___ (P/T)___ General(full) ___ P/T___

SPECIALTY FACULTY:

Position: _____	_____	_____
	No. of full time	No. of part time
Position: _____	_____	_____
	No. of full time	No. of part time
Position: _____	_____	_____
	No. of full time	No. of part time
Position: _____	_____	_____
	No. of full time	No. of part time
Position: _____	_____	_____
	No. of full time	No. of part time

ACCREDITATION EXPECTATIONS

Date Formal Accreditation Process to Begin: _____

Projected End of Self Study: _____

Projected Dates for Site Visitation: _____

Signature of School Head(s): _____

Signature of Governing Body Head(s): _____

Signature of Head of Educational Committee: _____

ATTACHMENTS:

- Letter of Intent: School Head
- Letter of Intent: Governing Body
- Application Fee

