



## **ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

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### **1.7. ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

#### **1.7.1. Geographic Locations of Member Institutions**

The Commission on Secondary Schools shall follow guidelines related to constituencies served as established under Article I – Name, Office and Purpose, Section 102 – Purposes, of the Bylaws for the Middle States Association. The MSA Bylaws state the following:

Article I  
Name, Office and Purpose

Section 102. Purposes.

(a) The Association is organized to promote charitable and educational activities within the meaning of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) and is incorporated under the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law for any lawful purpose for which a nonprofit corporation may operate under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania including, in particular, the following:

(i) To accredit educational institutions and programs located inside or outside the United States, including, but not limited to, the States of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands;

#### **1.7.2. World-wide Accreditation**

The Commission on Secondary Schools shall, upon request of the institution involved, admit members located anywhere in the world. This may occur either alone or in conjunction with the Committee on Institution-wide Accreditation.

#### **1.7.3. Definition of Institutions Located Outside the United States Eligible for Middle States Accreditation**

In addition to meeting the same Standards for Accreditation that apply to domestic institutions, institutions located outside the United States must meet the eligibility criteria that follows.

The Middle States Association accredits institutions located outside the United States that are described as American and/or American international in nature. To be considered an American or American international institution, the following characteristics must be in place:

- a) The majority of instruction, including all core academic subjects, is taught in English. Governing documents are available in English.
- b) A majority of staff and administration has been educated in English-language colleges and universities and demonstrates a good understanding of American international-style curriculum and instructional practices. Staff members and administrators possess the qualifications of education, experience, and commitment that contribute to effective learning.
- c) A majority of the elementary and middle school students is enrolled in a program that is predominantly North American in nature or in a program that prepares them for entry into the International Baccalaureate program at the high school level.
- d) At the high school level, a majority of students is enrolled in an American high school diploma program (may include Advanced Placement courses) or the International Baccalaureate program.
- e) Participation in the program permits a student to successfully transfer to a school within the United States or to another overseas school that is American and/or American international in nature. Upon graduation, students are qualified to enter an American college or university and/or an American international institution of higher learning.
- f) The school provides materials, equipment, and supplies that are necessary to support an American international-style curriculum or the International Baccalaureate program.

NOTE: This definition does not apply to schools located in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

1.7.4. Representation in CSS Governance for Institutions Located Outside the United States

CSS shall ensure representation of non-U.S. institutions in the governance of the Commission through the International Schools Advisory Committee and via representation on the Commission.

*Policy # \_1.7.1.—1.7.4..\_\_\_\_\_*

*1.7.3. Definition Approved April 2000*

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