



Why Should Your Child Attend an Accredited School? New York State Association of Independent Schools

All of the best schools continually evaluate their performance and the way they serve children by means of their own devising. Without regular and ongoing evaluation, an institution can ossify, and in a changing world, lose its meaning for society. Additionally, the view a school takes of itself needs, periodically, to be supplemented by an external view; one that brings a perspective the school cannot command.

Formal evaluation combines self-assessment with external review by a committee of outside professionals. This process of accreditation is guided by the New York State Association of Independent Schools' *Manual for Evaluation and Accreditation 3.1*. A NYS AIS accreditation gives structure, direction, and scope to the undertaking that goes beyond that which a school might ordinarily elect. The external review brings observations, comments, and suggestions possible only for those who are not immersed in the daily concerns of a school's life.

Knowing that children learn in many ways, the object in evaluation is to assist the school in better realizing its objectives and to enhance the school's unique character rather than to impose a common design. Thus, a school is evaluated in terms of its own purposes and objectives, not those of some remote authority. This is fundamental to the independent school world. A NYS AIS accreditation attests to a school's quality in terms everyone readily understands.