

# National Lutheran School Accreditation

**Bethany Lutheran Preschool is fully-accredited by the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA).**

## What is NLSA?

National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) has been serving as the accrediting body for schools of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) across the United States and the world since 1978. Accreditation decisions have always been based upon a school's compliance with national standards for Lutheran schools which reflect the essential qualities that are expected of Lutheran schools.

The purpose of an NLSA self-study is to evaluate the actual conditions in place that are related to essential indicators of school quality. These are evaluated and measured in seven specific standard areas. In order to become accredited in good standing with NLSA, a school must comply fully with 30 required indicators of success. Additionally, the school must evaluate itself on a scale of 1-4 (4 being the highest rating) using a variety of general indicators that quantify how it complies with standards in each accreditation area. Ratings are established by the school based upon evidence and practices that are in place at the time of the self-study. Ratings allow a school to identify and celebrate unique strengths and address concerns that need corrective actions.

As a part of the process, each school is responsible to construct a school action plan based on concerns identified in its self-study. The actions that are planned by the school ensure continuous improvement of school program. Upon conclusion of the self-study, an NLSA visiting team validates that the information prepared by the school accurately reflects the actual conditions that are present at the school. In a formal, two-day visit, the team examines evidence, interviews school stakeholders, visits classrooms and observes overall school practices. If the evidence presented does not sufficiently support a school rating, the visiting team has the authority to change the school's rating in its report.

National Lutheran School Accreditation encourages, assists, and recognizes schools that provide quality Christian education and engage in continuous improvement. The Evidence Based Accreditation (EBA) process allows for the fulfillment this mission effectively thereby providing a valuable service to Lutheran schools.



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITED  
SCHOOL  NLSA

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD