



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School is a WELSSA Accredited School

[Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation \(WELSSA\)](#) has established the standards for accrediting our school. These standards and the WELSSA Commission have been formally recognized and approved by the [National Council for Private School Accreditation](#). NCPESA has established accreditation procedures to facilitate the appropriate application, review, and recognition of qualified and credible accrediting associations serving private schools.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School has received accreditation for the 2017-2018 school year. We have proven compliance with WELSSA's educational standards and are a member in good standing. Schools working toward accreditation must complete a comprehensive self-study, host a site visit team of educators outside the school every five years, and develop and implement a school improvement plan to maintain accreditation. The school files an annual report detailing their progress in meeting their goals and staying in compliance with the WELSSA standards.

Standards to be met include:

- Mission, Vision and Objectives
- School and Relationships
- School Climate
- School Governance & Administration
- Professional Personnel
- Curriculum
- Instruction
- Student Services
- Physical Facilities
- Planning and Information Management

WELS educators hold to these foundational beliefs:

- God's teachings in the Bible are the foundation of every point of view, action, and product in Lutheran schools.
- Christ's love compels all Christians, adults and children, to serve as he did.
- High quality Christian education is an expression of our desire to do all things to the glory of God.
- High quality Christian education is an integral part of making Christian disciples of young children and of reaching out into the community with the Gospel.
- High quality Christian education is an expression of the good stewardship of the blessings which God has graciously given us.
- High quality Christian education is solely a blessing from our gracious God.

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) schools exist to educate children, strengthen families, and serve the church with the power of teaching that is deeply rooted in the Bible and fully expresses the love of Jesus. As Christ's humble servants, we want to seek the greater good of Christ's kingdom with high quality education. Why is this necessary? Let's face it - there is always room for improvement but even more important than that we have the opportunity to express good stewardship of the blessings which God has graciously given us; blessings that we need to share by reaching out into the community with the saving Gospel.

In 2003, the Commission on Lutheran Schools resolved to establish a WELS school accreditation process as a means of improving the educational quality and effectiveness of Lutheran schools and their ministry by:

- Assisting WELS congregations with evaluating their early childhood ministries, Lutheran elementary schools, or Lutheran high schools based on Scripture and on sound educational principles
- Providing WELS congregations with a basis for developing a plan for improving the school by identifying strengths and areas in need of improvement
- Providing a means by which WELS schools can become accredited through WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools.

WELS schools can also pursue co-accreditation with regional agencies recognized by the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPESA).