

Gatewood Schools SAIS-SACS Accreditation

Eatonton, Georgia

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Gatewood Schools is now an accredited member of the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). To earn accreditation from SAIS and SACS, Gatewood complied with quality standards, was evaluated by an outside group of peer professionals, and implemented a school plan focused on strategic improvement and student performance.

In today's world of accountability in schooling, accreditation serves as a critical component of a school's demonstrated effectiveness and ability to provide successful schooling for children. A school that is able to achieve accreditation demonstrates a commitment to a process that requires the school to meet a set of rigorous, research-based standards; to engage in a program of continuous school improvement; and to demonstrate quality assurance to its stakeholders through self-evaluation and peer review. SAIS-SACS accreditation provides schools access to an integrated network of services and technical assistance that supports every school's ability to identify and meet its goals for improving student performance and the teaching and learning process.

Accreditation is voluntary and must be renewed each year. In addition, the self-study process and peer review visit must be repeated every five years for continued accreditation.

SAIS and SACS member schools are part of a remarkable history of quality assurance in education. SAIS began its organizational life in 1903 as the Mid-South Association of Independent Schools (MAIS). In 1953, another organization began as the Southern Association of Independent Schools, providing a forum for independent school administrators to work with public schools through SACS and to contribute to the larger interest in accreditation in the Southeast. MAIS and SAIS merged in 1986 to form the present-day SAIS, which now works at the state, regional, and national levels, to serve and strengthen member schools through the promotion of the highest quality educational standards and ethical conduct.

Established in 1895, SACS is a non-governmental, voluntary organization that accredits more than 13,000 public and non-public institutions from early-childhood to university. Today, SACS is the largest accrediting agency in the world. The current SAIS-SACS partnership offers schools a process for accreditation.

Founded in 1970, Gatewood now has 480 students enrolled in grades K3 through twelve. Gatewood offers a rigorous college-preparatory education to students in the Eatonton area. In all of these years, Gatewood has sought to instill the values of truth, honor, loyalty and pride in each of its students. "It is only natural that we would want to seek additional accreditation as we mature into a middle-aged school. We must continue to review and evaluate each and every aspect of our school if we are to improve," says Head of School, Laura Thompson. Gatewood has established a reputation as a leader in education in its community. Its successful alumni, many of whom are now parents of Gatewood students, represent Gatewood well in the community, nation and world.

For more information, contact Cristi McElhenney, Director of Admissions, at 706.485.8231, ext. 13, or visit Gatewood on the web at www.gatewoodschool.com.