



SAIS addresses issues of importance to non-public schools such as **organizational excellence, accreditation, curriculum, professional development, governance, equity, and leadership.**

## ACCREDITATION

SAIS accredited schools demonstrate their commitment to excellence. Schools accredited by SAIS are dedicated to their mission and to a reflective and engaging continuous improvement process that focuses on a school's growth mindset. SAIS accreditation is tailored to the individual needs of the independent school community and encourages both established and emerging schools to approach challenges with creativity and innovation. Tell your story, set your goals, and be 'independent' – while still fulfilling vigorous requirements. SAIS accreditation is a transformative process of mission-appropriate and mission-driven self-evaluation which culminates in a peer review conducted by a team of independent school thought leaders and conducted using the SAIS Accreditation Portal™.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SAIS offers high-quality, relevant, and accessible professional development opportunities for heads, trustees, senior administrators, and other members of the independent school leadership team. Course topics include a wide variety of issues relevant to the independent school, including governance, leadership, mentoring, diversity initiatives, and financial sustainability. SAIS also hosts regional forums on a topic of interest at locations across the Southeast each spring. Additionally, summer programs for new and experienced heads, associate/assistant heads, division heads, academic deans, and new teachers are offered each year.

The premier networking and educational event for independent school leaders in the Southeast is the SAIS Annual Conference. The conference, held each October, features sessions, resources, and exhibitors tailored specifically to the independent school world.

## NETWORKING

SAIS also hosts SAISconnect™, the first virtual private network for independent school administrators in the world. SAISconnect™ is an online members-only professional platform where member school heads and administrators can connect and collaborate in a secure environment. The growing digital network offers resources, affinity groups, and ongoing discussion about topics that directly affect independent schools.

## CAREER CENTER

With over 2,500 job-seeker profiles and an average of 1,000 job views per day, the SAIS Career Center is an excellent resource for high-quality faculty and administrators with experience and interests specific to independent schools.

## NEWS & RESOURCES

The SAIS office publishes e-newsletters, blogs and tweets, and videos. Publications deliver timely news, member profiles, and original content. Archives are available online at [www.sais.org/](http://www.sais.org/) news, as well as a growing library of white papers by members of our independent school community.

## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

The present-day SAIS was formed in 1986 by a merger of the Mid-South Association of Independent Schools (1903) and the Southern Association of Independent Schools (1953). SAIS is a membership association serving independent schools in the Southeast, and is proud to be the largest regional independent school associations in the country.

SAIS has over 380 member schools from 14 states, the Caribbean, and Latin America. They are unique, vibrant, and mission-driven.

**Secular vs. Non-Secular:** Of member schools, 51% are secular and 49% are non-secular. For the non-secular schools, religious affiliations are as follows:

- 57% Christian, non-denominational
- 24% Episcopal
- 9% Catholic
- 6% Jewish
- 3% Quaker
- 2% Presbyterian

**Co-Ed vs. Single-Sex:** While 95% of SAIS member schools are co-educational, 3% are boys-only and 2% are girls-only.

