

The Unification of NCA CASI, SACS CASI, and NSSE Announcement to Accredited Schools and Districts

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Board of Directors of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) have voted to bring together NCA CASI, SACS CASI, and the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) into one strong and unified organization that will serve as a national leader for quality education.

With our shared mission of advancing the quality of education, we will work to enhance the three pillars of accreditation – high standards, quality assurance, and continuous improvement - while providing a more unified and national voice for the profession on issues of educational quality.

This unification creates the world's largest education community, representing over 23,000 public and private schools and districts in 30 states and 65 countries and serving over 15 million students. Through our strong state presence and volunteer network, we will leverage our size and global network to deliver the powerful combination of accreditation, research, and school improvement in a customized way to every school and district we serve.

NCA CASI and SACS CASI will maintain their brand names so that schools will continue to enjoy the brand recognition of our respective accreditation seals, while gaining access to a broader network of schools and greater resources.

Over the course of the 2006-07 school year, we will share more of the exciting details of this unification with you; however, we would like to highlight in this announcement several of the benefits that the unification will bring to accredited schools and districts:

First, it will enable us to leverage a greater network of best practices and the strong research base of NSSE to provide you with higher quality products, services, and support.

Second, it allows us to build on the best of NCA CASI and SACS CASI processes to deliver an accreditation process that is meaningful, useful, simple and does not duplicate effort with state or federal requirements – this responds directly to feedback we have received from you.

Third, it provides us with an opportunity to build a national team chair training curriculum that will heighten the value and impact of on-site reviews.

And fourth, it provides a national platform that allows us to move from a regional organization to a national and international advocate for the profession on educational quality.

We are excited about the potential that this unification will have to benefit districts, schools, and ultimately and most importantly students; and we look forward to sharing more with you over the course of the coming school year.