

Internationally Accredited Schools in Costa Rica

Effective Date: April 2014



U.S. accreditation is critical for top quality private schools around the world. However, accreditation is a concept that few people understand and yet one from which many could benefit.

For top tier international schools worldwide, accreditation has responded to the 21st century need for improved **quality and greater accountability**.

The U.S. Department of Education describes approved accrediting organizations as a “**reliable authority as to the quality of education.**”

Accreditation is an external, objective validation of school quality and student achievement that fosters continuous school improvement.

Accreditation provides a means for public accountability by:

- Validating the integrity of a school's program and student transcripts.
- Assuring that the school's purposes are appropriate and accomplished through a viable educational program.
- Justifying the faith and resources others place in the school.

Accreditation builds positive community and stakeholder relations by:

- Providing opportunities to emphasize the positive and demonstrate the strength and effectiveness of the school.
- Broadening the staff view of community expectations and fostering closer school and community collaboration.
- Articulating and communicating opportunities between school levels and among stakeholder groups.

(Source: MSA-CESS.ORG. April 2, 2014)

Only Ten U.S. Accredited Schools in Costa Rica

There are only ten U.S. accredited schools in Costa Rica as of this date. Seven schools are accredited with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), one school is accredited with the Council of International Schools (CIS-NEASC), and two with the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA).

Having an International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) Diploma Program authorization is not an accreditation.

A school is authorized by the IBO to use their Diploma Program for Grades 11 and 12 at their school. There are 16 schools in Costa Rica that have IB Diploma Program authorization, though none of them are authorized to deliver the IB program from KG to Grade 10.



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Having an IBO authorized school program is not a substitute for achieving an internationally recognized accreditation at your school.

TEN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED SCHOOLS IN COSTA RICA

	School Name	Accreditation	City
1.	Country Day School Escazu	Middle States Association	Escazu
2.	Country Day School Guanacaste	Middle States Association	Brasilito
3.	American International School CR	Southern Association	San Jose
4.	Colegio Monterrey	Southern Association	San Jose
5.	Falcon International School	Southern Association	Herradura
6.	Golden Valley School	Southern Association	San Isidro
7.	Lincoln School	Southern Association	San Jose
8.	Marion Baker School	Southern Association	San Jose
9.	New Summit Academy	Southern Association	Atenas, Alejuela
10.	Pan American School	Council of International Schools / New England Association	Alajuela

How to Verify a School's Accreditation

All fully accredited schools will have used one of the following organizations. These organizations publish lists of schools on their websites who have earned accreditation.

1. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (**MSA**) www.msa-cess.org
2. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (**SACS**): AdvancED www.sacs.org
3. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (**WASC**) www.acswasc.org
4. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (**NEASC**) www.neasc.org
5. Council of International Schools (**CIS**) collaboration with MSA, SACS, WASC www.cois.org

Only fully accredited international schools by the above organizations are permitted to claim international accreditation and to use the accreditation logos on their website, brochures, marketing material and other published documents.

If a school is not included on any of the above organizations' accredited school lists, then a school is not internationally accredited.