



NLSA / Cognia Dual Accreditation Application Process

The Following Instructions are for Both NEW and RENEWING Schools

To Apply for Dual Accreditation with NLSA and Cognia Using the NLSA EBA Documents:

1. Complete a National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) Application and submit it and the appropriate Application Fee (if applying for initial NLSA accreditation) to the local LCMS District office for processing. *(NLSA Applications are found in the "NLSA Application" tab of LuthEd.org)*
2. If a school is in the middle of the NLSA accreditation cycle and wishes to apply for dual accreditation, if approved, Cognia will grant accreditation in alignment with the school's current NLSA accreditation cycle. When the NLSA accreditation visit is due to take place, the school will continue to use the NLSA EBA protocol.
3. If a school is new to both Cognia and NLSA, the school can choose to use either the NLSA (recommended) or Cognia protocol for the initial accreditation visit.

To Apply for Dual Accreditation with NLSA and Cognia Using the Cognia Documents:

1. Complete a Cognia application online: <https://www.cognia.org/accreditation-certification/>
(If currently accredited through Cognia, no new application for accreditation is needed.)
2. Complete a National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) Application and submit it and the appropriate Application Fee (if applying for initial NLSA accreditation) to the local LCMS District office for processing. *(NLSA Applications are found in the "NLSA Application" tab of LuthEd.org)*
3. Once the application has been submitted online to Cognia, a representative from Cognia will contact the school administrator directly with fee and payment specifics, which are remitted directly to Cognia.
4. After both the Cognia and NLSA applications and fees have been processed, the school's Cognia workspace will be opened and login information will be sent directly to the school administrator to begin working on the school's accreditation process.

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