



NLSA Frequently Asked Questions Impact of COVID-19

Updated March 24, 2020

As the COVID-19 virus increasingly impacts Lutheran schools, the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) national leadership team has developed the following policy and procedure for schools that are closed during their scheduled NLSA Validation Team Visit to request an extension in order to conduct the site visit during a period when the school is open:

Schools that are closed as a result of COVID-19 will be given an extension (1 year) without charge to provide time for the reopening of the school and to prepare for the rescheduled Validation Team Site Visit. Schools that are closed and are currently working with an extension will be granted the additional year without penalty (3/13/2020).

Any school whose Validation Team Visit members are impacted by the COVID-19 virus (quarantine, restricted movement, school closures, etc.) are also able to request an extension (1 year) without charge (3/13/2020).

Q: Why is it necessary to apply for an extension to postpone a Validation Team Visit?

A: NLSA is still required to keep accurate records when corresponding with partner agencies and states with reciprocal agreements. This process has been streamlined as much as possible while still respecting these requirements.

Q: How does a school apply for the extension?

A: Using this [link](#), the school administrator will submit the required information to postpone the school's scheduled Validation Team Visit and request an NLSA Pandemic Extension of one (1) year to the accreditation cycle. An NLSA representative will contact the individual school confirming the request within ten business days, and will at that time, share additional information with regard to the rescheduling of the Validation Team Visit.

Q: Are schools that have applied for and received a previous extension eligible for the second extension?

A: Schools that are closed and were previously extended through the 2019-2020 school year are eligible for the NLSA Pandemic Extension for one (1) year without penalty and without charge.

Q: Is a school that is preparing for accreditation with a Cognia/NLSA Site Visit, using Cognia as the lead protocol, eligible to apply for an NLSA Pandemic Extension or is Cognia providing the extension?

A: Dr. Eddie Krenson (Vice President, Nonpublic School Services, Cognia) verified on 3/13/2020 that schools applying for reciprocal accreditation (using NLSA or Cognia protocol) in the event of a school closure will be able to apply for a 1-year Pandemic Extension through NLSA.

Q: Will schools be penalized in NLSA if Standardized Testing is not administered in 2020?

A: Schools that are not able to administer Standardized Testing in 2020 will not be penalized in NLSA for absent data.

Q: If a school is postponing a Validation Team Visit until Fall 2020, is the school expected to turn in a Cumulative Action Report (CAR) in Spring 2020?

A: NLSA reciprocal relationships require that schools are monitored throughout the accreditation process. Schools are required to submit a Cumulative Action Report (CAR) annually. If a school is extended on a Pandemic Extension, it should submit what has been accomplished as a part of the extended accreditation cycle. Understandably, a school may have little or nothing to report, except for listing the dates the school was closed. **No school will be placed on provisional status for lack of progress.**

Q: Are schools that are scheduled for a Validation Team Visit in the 2020-2021 school year able to apply for a Pandemic Extension through the current application and process?

A: The current Pandemic Extension is applicable to schools that have a scheduled Validation Team Visit during the period when the school is closed in the 2019-2020 school year. The extension period to complete the site visit is valid through April 2021. At this time, schools with Validation Team Visits scheduled in the 2020-2021 school year are not eligible to apply for the current Pandemic Extension to extend a Validation Team Visit to the 2021-2022 school year. NLSA will continue to review the accreditation needs of schools with Validation Team Visits scheduled in the 2020-2021 school year throughout the coming year and as schools reopen.