

Excerpt from GISA By-Laws

Article IV. Members, Voting, and Meetings

Section 4.01. Members

Membership in the Corporation is granted to institutions after recommendation by the Membership Committee and upon a vote of two-thirds of the Membership at a general meeting of the Membership. Any independent school may be eligible for membership upon meeting the following criteria:

- A. Be located within the geographical territory of the Corporation; however, independent schools located outside the geographical territory of the Corporation may be eligible for membership if they receive prior approval of the Executive Committee.
- B. Be accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the Corporation. The Corporation shall establish by policy adopted by the Membership such approved accrediting agencies. All institutions applying for membership after the adoption of these Bylaws shall meet this requirement by the end of the 2011-12 academic year or by the date of the application for membership, whichever is later. All institutions that are members on the date of the adoption of these Bylaws shall meet this requirement by the end of the 2016-17 academic year.
- C. Comply with the Principles of Best Practices approved by the Corporation. The Corporation shall establish by policy adopted by the Membership such Principles of Best Practices.

Ineligible for membership are home-schooling groups, associations, or organizations; charter schools; and schools that are primarily tutorial/independent learning centers. Schools having programs for two-, three-, four-, and five-year old children are ineligible for membership unless the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten are part of an overall elementary program through at least the third grade.

It is a condition of membership that the member pay dues annually based upon the category of membership maintained and any fees as they may be levied. Dues and fees are set annually by the Membership.

There shall be two categories of membership: general members and interscholastic members. The determination of the category of membership is at the option of the member; however, only interscholastic members are eligible for interscholastic competition and only interscholastic members are eligible to vote on Rules and Regulations for Interscholastic Competition.

A member school that is absent from three consecutive general meetings of the Corporation shall be dropped from membership. Any school so dropped shall be notified in writing by the President and such action shall be entered into the minutes of the Corporation.

The Georgia Independent School Association, Inc., admits institutions to membership without regard to race, religion, color, sex, handicap, national and ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to member institutions. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, handicap, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its accreditation policies or any of its membership programs.

Section 4.02. Authority of the Members

The Membership of the Corporation consisting of its general and interscholastic members shall meet at least twice a year, in the fall and in the spring. Membership has the following authority:

1. Approves standards for Membership;
2. Provides for appeals procedures and review processes on all matters pertaining to Membership; provided that decisions concerning process established by the Board of Trustees shall be final;
3. Approves fees and annual dues which shall be paid by each member institution; and,
4. Elects members of the Board of Trustees.

Section 4.03. Rights, Duties, and Voting

The Members of the Corporation shall vote at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, or at special meetings called in accordance with these Bylaws. Each member institution may cast one vote. No person shall cast more than one vote. Voting at annual and special meetings shall be by the members present and voting; voting by proxy is specifically prohibited.

Section 4.04. Meetings

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Corporation in the fall at a time and place determined by the Board of Trustees. Special meetings of the Corporation may be called by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Trustees. Announcement of an annual or special meeting of the Corporation shall be made at least thirty days in advance of the meeting. The announcement of any special meetings shall contain a description of the matter(s) to be considered. The announcement of the Annual Meeting shall contain a description of any matter to be considered for which prior announcement is required by law, the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws.

Section 4.05. Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business at the Annual meeting or special meeting of the Corporation shall be the number of qualified voters present at that time.

Section 4.06. Termination of Membership

The Corporation establishes procedures for granting membership to institutions. Institutions granted membership are members of the Corporation so long as they continue to meet the requirements of membership. A member institution may be sanctioned or lose its membership under the procedures of the Corporation. Pursuant to these Bylaws the Corporation specifically removes itself from the provisions of the statutes of the State of Georgia, Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 14-3-621.

GISA POLICY ON ACCREDITATION AGENCIES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Article IV, Section 4.01 B., of the Bylaws of the Corporation provides that in order to be a Member of GISA an institution must “[b]e accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the Corporation.”

The Bylaws further provide that “[t]he Corporation shall establish by policy, adopted by the Membership, such approved accrediting agencies.”

Therefore, Membership hereby adopts this policy as establishing those accrediting agencies approved by the Corporation to satisfy the requirements of membership.

The following accrediting agencies are acceptable for membership:

1. The Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS).
2. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS-CASI).
3. Any organization whose membership is accepted by SAIS or by SACS-CASI as satisfying the accreditation requirements of SAIS or SACS-CASI.

Adopted by affirmative vote of the Membership, this 20th day of March, 2011.