

## Accreditation Support Fund-National Accreditation Frequently Asked Questions

---

**Q: Who can apply for the [Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation](#)?**

A: As a family child care provider, child care center or school-age only program, you are eligible to apply for Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation for assistance with required application fees.

**Q: What accrediting organizations does The Maryland State Department of Education recognize?**

A: The Maryland State Department of Education recognizes the following accrediting organizations below:

- [American Montessori Society](#) (AMS)
- [Association Montessori International/USA](#) (AMI/USA)
- [Association of Independent Maryland Schools](#) (AIMS)
- [Association of Waldorf Schools of North America](#) (AWSNA)
- [Cognia Early Learning Accreditation](#)
- [Council on Accreditation – After-School Accreditation](#) (COA/ASA)
- [Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools](#) (MSA-CESS)
- [National Accreditation Commission](#) (NAC)
- [National Association for the Education of Young Children](#) (NAEYC)
- [National Association for Family Child Care](#) (NAFCC)
- [National Early Childhood Program Accreditation](#) (NECPA)



**Q: What documents are required for applying for Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation?**

A: The following documents are required:

- Copy of your completed application submitted to the accrediting organization that you are pursuing
- Completed Accreditation Work Plan
- Copy of the Accrediting Organizations Fee Page
- Copy of the current accreditation certificate if you are currently accredited

**Q: What should be included in an Accreditation Work Plan?**

A: The Accreditation Work Plan should be developed based upon the required steps to achieve accreditation from the accrediting organization that you are pursuing.

**Accreditation Work Plan Example:**

Action Item	Date Completed
Review Accrediting Organization Standards and Evaluate Program In Conjunction to Standards.	Ongoing
Submit Accrediting Organizations Accreditation Application.	March 30, 2024
Submit Licensing Reports to Accrediting Organization.	April 1, 2024
Submit Quality Improvement Report to Accrediting Organization.	April 15, 2024
Submit Professional Development Plan to Accrediting Organization.	April 15, 2024
Submit Training Certificates to an Accrediting Organization.	April 15, 2024



**Q: How long will it take for my application to get approved?**

A: Your application will be approved within thirty days once all required documents are submitted.

**Q: How will I know my application is approved?**

A: The Maryland State Department of Education Accreditation Specialist, who manages the National Accreditation Support Fund will notify you via email on the status of your application.

**Q: Will the award for the Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation be sent to me directly?**

A: Your award for the Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation will be paid to the accrediting organization directly on your behalf.

---

For further questions, contact us at [accreditation@marylandexcels.org](mailto:accreditation@marylandexcels.org).