

What is Middle States?

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) was established in 1887. It is one of six regional organizations that together serve schools in the US and in many countries around the world. The Association is a non-governmental, nonprofit, peer-administered organization. **MSA** provides leadership in school improvement for its member schools in six states in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, the subcontinent of Asia, and Africa. The activity now known as **accreditation** is traceable to the guild orientation of the medieval academic communities. The word “accreditation” is derived from middle French, old Italian usage. The first meaning of its root term is “**trustworthiness.**”

What is Accreditation for Growth?

Accreditation for Growth (AFG) is an accreditation protocol that uses strategic planning as a vehicle for growth and improvement in student performance and in the institution’s capacity to effect that growth. The protocol, developed by the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools (MSCSS) of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, links various planning and institutional growth and improvement efforts. In *AFG*, the primary determinants of progress are not the resources a community provides for its educational institutions (the inputs), but instead the actual results of the institution’s work – the students’ performance. *AFG* requires the institution to establish objectives for improving student performance based on its vision of a preferred future for the students. Therefore, *AFG* is a future-oriented and visionary process. In addition, the *AFG* protocol provides for a *continuous* review of programs and services and of the results of student performance. It also allows diverse constituent groups to participate in charting the future of the institution.