

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 EXCELLENCE BY DESIGN?

Memorial High School is continuing its long standing accreditation with Middle States by adopting the Excellence by Design (EBD) protocol. EBD is an accreditation protocol that uses strategic planning as a vehicle for growth and improvement in student performance and in the school’s capacity to effect that growth. The protocol, developed by the Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS), links various planning and school growth and improvement efforts. Excellence by Design leads the school to establish objectives for improving student performance and organizational capacity based on its vision of a preferred future for its students. Therefore, Excellence by Design is a future-oriented and visionary process. In addition, the 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.