

Dear AISNE Heads,

I am writing to make you aware of a recent communication from the organization Parents Unite directed towards AISNE.

Last week, Parents Unite contacted AISNE, NEASC, and the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (the accrediting body for AISNE and NEASC) challenging our accreditation standards and our commitment to equity and inclusion. I am sharing their communication for your awareness and visibility.

AISNE, NEASC, and ICAISA responded to Parents Unite with a joint response that I am attaching here. In that response, we reaffirm the independence of our member schools and our shared commitment to supporting each school in fulfilling its unique mission.

AISNE accreditation is a process of quality assurance, institutional health, continuous improvement, and, most importantly, enhancing student learning and development. The process is not prescriptive; it emphasizes deep alignment between each school's own mission, values, program, policies, and systems. AISNE's standards, which broadly outline the elements critical to healthy, successful schools, allow schools the flexibility to demonstrate alignment in multiple ways, depending on what is most important to each school's community.

However, a commitment to the values of equity and inclusion is central to AISNE's mission and will remain a throughline within AISNE's standards for accreditation. Research shows that diverse, equitable, inclusive, and belonging-centered environments are foundational to a quality education and lead to stronger critical thinking, greater cultural competency, and deeper resilience. (Want to dig into the research? Check out [AISNE's annotated Accreditation Standards](#).)

I know many of your schools have been on the receiving end of attention by Parents Unite or similar groups seeking to challenge your schools' efforts to create equitable and inclusive communities. I deeply appreciate the grace, integrity, and steadfast leadership with which you continue to navigate these challenges.

AISNE will not waver in our efforts to provide professional learning, peer dialogue, programs, and services that support your school's inclusion work—from our annual adult and student DEIB conferences and BIPOC Symposium, to an intentional thread of programming throughout the rest of our events.

I encourage you to continue moving forward with clarity and conviction: remain committed to fostering inclusion and belonging in your communities, and continue investing in the people, programs, and resources that make this essential work possible.

It's my sincere hope that our industry will meet this pressure with steadfast determination and an ongoing commitment to the belief that our schools should be places that celebrate diversity in its many forms and foster belonging for everyone.

With appreciation for all you do,
Sara

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