



Associate Member Society

of FISABC
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HOW TO BECOME AN AMS of FISABC MEMBER

Thank you for your interest in joining the Associate Member Society of FISABC (AMS). We are the most diverse society within FISA BC encompassing over 140 individual member schools with a wide variety of pedagogical and faith-based approaches. Our member schools include Montessori, Waldorf, International Baccalaureate, First Nations, special needs, and religious schools (among them evangelical Protestant, Seventh-day Adventist, Jewish, Sikh, Muslim) with a combined enrolment of over 23,000 students.

AMS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

Per the AMS Constitution and Bylaws, Members shall:

- (a) be an Independent School as defined in the Independent School Act;
- (b) be operated by a School Authority as defined by the Independent School Act;
- (c) maintain certificates of group classification pursuant to the Independent School Act;
- (d) comply with the Independent School Act and all other applicable Acts, Regulations, Ministerial Orders, Orders in Council, and Inspector's Orders as apply from time to time;
- (e) uphold the Constitution and Principles of the Society and comply with these Bylaws;
- (f) maintain responsible educational programs and standards;
- (g) comply with FISA BC's Code of Good Practice;
- (h) pay all fees as the Directors determine.

GROUP 4 SCHOOL PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Group 4 certified independent schools with less than two successive years of operation may apply for "provisional membership".
- (b) The requirements for provisional membership includes all the criteria as set out in Bylaw 3.3, including a membership visit.
- (c) Schools in the provisional membership category are entitled to all AMS services. They are able to attend general meetings but do not have the right to vote. They may not use the AMS or FISA logos on any school materials or communications.
- (d) The fee for this service is equivalent to the current FISA fee plus the AMS fee.
- (e) Schools wishing to transition to full membership must submit two Ministry Inspection reports. These must be judged satisfactory by the Board.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Once AMS receives a membership application form, we undertake the following process:

1. The Authority is contacted in order to arrange for a meeting to be attended by the school's senior Administrator and a representative of the Board of Directors. The Authority is asked to provide the AMS team with the latest external evaluation report, the latest financial statement (preferably audited), and a schematic diagram of the school and property one week prior to the visit.
2. The AMS team is usually made up of two AMS Directors along with the Executive Director and/or Assistant Executive Director of FISA BC.

Associate Member Society of FISABC Board of Directors

President – Kent Dykstra, Vice President – Diana Chalmers,
Treasurer - Gabe Linder, Secretary - Emily Greenberg, Saima Naz, Cathy Domke

3. The visit includes:
 - A conversation based on a template used by the AMS team, which asks the school to provide an overview of their operations.
 - Reviewing the external evaluation report, the financial statement, and a schematic of the school and property.
 - A tour of the school that includes visits to a number of classrooms.
 - A conversation of what AMS membership entails: fees, probation, agreement with AMS Constitution, and the FISA BC Code of Good Practice.
4. The AMS team prepares a written report, which is forwarded to all the AMS Directors for their recommendation. The Authority is notified as to acceptance or denial of membership.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES

Successful applicants for membership must appoint an individual to be its Authorized Representative. The Authorized Representative will receive communications from the Society and vote at general meetings. Provisional members do not appoint Authorized Representatives until they have successfully transferred to full AMS membership.

ANNUAL AMS MEMBERSHIP FEES

Fees are due to the AMS office within one month of notification of membership approval. For the 2024-2025 school year AMS fees are \$3.00/FTE student.

FISA BC

Full AMS membership automatically leads to membership in the Federation of Independent School Associations in BC (FISA BC). FISA BC represents over 320 independent schools through five separate member societies (Association of Christian Schools International in BC, Associate Member Society of FISA BC, Catholic Independent Schools of BC, Independent School Associations of BC, Society of Christian Schools in BC). FISA BC advocates for parental choice, recognition and funding, the pursuit of excellence, strengthening educational practice, and contributing to the public good. The six AMS Directors serve as FISA BC Directors. Schools holding provisional AMS membership status are not FISA members.

FISA annual membership fees for 2024-2025 are \$7.50/FTE student and are billed separately.

If you have any questions or wish to submit an AMS Membership Application, please contact us at info@AMSoFISA.ca

Sincerely,

AMS Directors