



Stanbridge Academy K–12 awarded maximum, seven-year accreditation from California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)

School also recognized by Western Association of Schools and Colleges;
CAIS distinction establishes Stanbridge as one of Bay Area’s only dually-accredited K–12 LD schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN MATEO (May 15, 2018) — Stanbridge Academy has been accepted as a member of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) for the seven-year maximum accreditation term. The school joins the fewer than 250 schools in California that have earned CAIS accreditation. Earlier this school year, Stanbridge’s accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) was renewed for the maximum seven years. Stanbridge has been a member of WASC since 1998. The certifications make Stanbridge Academy one of a small number of Bay Area K–12 schools to have both CAIS and WASC accreditation, and the only one focused on students with learning differences and other special education needs.

Julie Smith, Head of School at Stanbridge Academy, highlighted the importance of the dual accreditation: “Going through the accreditation process means that every aspect of our school—from academics, to facilities, to financial sustainability—is researched, analyzed, and scrutinized by experts in the field of education. The news from CAIS and WASC reaffirms the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the full Stanbridge community. We are honored by the confidence and trust that CAIS and WASC have shown in Stanbridge, and we will continue to hold ourselves to the highest standards when it comes to meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of students who learn differently.”

Founded in 1982, Stanbridge Academy is a K–12 school in San Mateo for students who have mild to moderate learning differences and social communication disorders. With a population of approximately 100 students, the school teaches standards-based curriculum at all grade levels; its small class sizes allowing for individualized instruction and the use of integrated assistive technology. On-staff counselors and speech and language therapists help students develop executive functioning and social thinking skills, and the school offers a full complement of arts, athletics, and enrichment programs, as well as a postsecondary transitions program to prepare high school graduates for college, job placement, and independent living. (www.stanbridgeacademy.org)

The mission of CAIS is to establish ambitious educational standards, foster respect for the diversity and dignity of humanity, and promote collaboration and social responsibility. CAIS supports and challenges its schools through an innovative accreditation program that provokes deep reflection, analysis, and institutional commitment to action, as well as through the offering of professional development, relevant research, and informed counsel to the heads and trustees who endeavor to lead those schools effectively. (www.caisca.org)

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