



Peer-driven. Purpose-built.

Advancing excellence in special education programs for over 30 years.

About NCASES

Since 1992, NCASES has advanced excellence in special education through rigorous, standards-based accreditation grounded in professional expertise and peer review. Created exclusively for special education programs, NCASES is purpose-built to understand the unique needs, structures, and services that define the field. Our process validates quality, strengthens accountability, and supports meaningful, sustainable growth. Recognized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), NCASES accreditation signals credibility, integrity, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

- ◆ Created exclusively for programs serving individuals with disabilities
- ◆ Founded by leaders in special education
- ◆ Driven by expert peer review
- ◆ Grounded in rigorous standards
- ◆ Committed to continuous improvement

NCASES Accreditation Process

Eligibility for NCASES accreditation is open to established nonprofit and for-profit agencies serving individuals with disabilities of all ages through clearly defined special education programs. Eligible organizations must employ qualified staff, maintain required state approvals, and have at least two years of operational experience or oversight by an NCASES-accredited program.

1 Apply for Accreditation

Submit your online application, fees, and review accreditation materials to begin the process.

2 Complete the Self-Study

Conduct a comprehensive self-evaluation aligned with NCASES standards, completed at least 60 days prior to the site visit.

3 Complete On-Sight Peer Review

Within one year of application, experienced reviewers verify alignment with standards and observe implementation firsthand.

4 Commission Determination

The Commission reviews the site team's report and makes the final accreditation determination.

5 Maintain & Renew Accreditation

Maintain adherence to standards throughout the four-year accreditation cycle and apply for re-accreditation prior to expiration.



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Authenticity Of Practice

Seeing your program in action allows reviewers to confirm that what is documented in the self-study is being implemented with fidelity and meaningful impact.

Holistic Evaluation

An on-site review captures the full educational environment—classroom experiences, staff engagement, facilities, student support systems, and organizational culture—elements that cannot be fully conveyed through documentation alone.

Peer-To-Peer Insight

Led by experienced special education professionals, the review process encourages meaningful dialogue, expert feedback, and the exchange of best practices tailored to your unique setting.

Support For Growth & Improvement

Beyond compliance, site reviews highlight opportunities for growth and innovation, helping programs strengthen practices and expand their impact.



Built by special educators, for special educators

“NCASES accreditation is a unique process that truly understands special education. It validates our innovation, quality, and commitment to providing a safe, exceptional learning environment.”

Dr. Rachel Tait
Chief Program Officer
Eden Autism



“NCASES accreditation provides invaluable peer feedback that strengthens our integrity and growth as an organization.”

Patrick Seay
Assistant Vice President,
School ACT Operations,
Kennedy Krieger School Programs



“The NCASES accreditation process strengthened our entire program—improving quality, accountability, and community trust.”

Ray Damm
Chief Executive Officer
ACCEL



“NCASES accreditation has helped our organization continuously improve and maintain high standards of quality.”

Marty Matheson
Chief Executive Officer
ScenicView Academy



“NCASES accreditation aligns with our mission and values, fostering a culture of continuous learning and excellence.”

Jenny Livelli
Chief Executive Officer
The Children’s Guild



Why NCASES Accreditation?

- ◆ National recognition for excellence in special education programs and services.
- ◆ Verified alignment with best practices and established professional standards.
- ◆ Enhanced credibility with families, funders, and referral partners.
- ◆ A clear, structured pathway for continuous improvement and strategic growth.

