



For Immediate Release:

July 21, 2023

Albany's LaSalle School Reaccredited by Council on Accreditation

Albany' LaSalle recently announced it has once again received national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA).

LaSalle School is located in the Pine Hills neighborhood, and its campus to its founding in 1854 by the De LaSalle Christian Brothers. It serves grades 6 -12 provides educational and therapeutic services to adolescent boys and young men in a day- and residential environment designed to provide for their academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs which may have previously interfered with a students' progress in school.

Joan Healey, Chairperson of the LaSalle Board said: "The accreditation processes is rigorous – and reflects a sustained organizational commitment to ensuring that every element of service to the boys we serve meets an ongoing standard of excellence established by the Christian Brothers nearly 170 years ago."

David Wallace, LCSW-R, Executive Director of LaSalle School said: "Something special happens on this campus everyday thanks to the around-the-clock dedication of our nearly 160 employees. They connect with youth in a meaningful way – and as a result provide an environment of healing and stability to those who are vulnerable."

The year-long process is a renewal of accreditation that had been previously approved in 2019 and 2015. Additionally LaSalle School has achieved and continually maintained national accreditation for nearly 50 years. It demonstrates a commitment to implementing best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of LaSalle's programs management and administration and reflects organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA accreditation, LaSalle School first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients.

Among the comments shared following the review included the following:

- *LaSalle offers high-quality services to the young men who come to their program. Family work, therapeutic services, and daily living life skills are part of every resident's treatment.*
- *The relationship between the administration team (and its Board) is transparent and effective. It has developed a detailed and ongoing risk prevention document and processes. The organization's Board is actively involved in reviewing and evaluating potential risks.*

- *The program operates with youth and staff safety and comfort level at the forefront. The on- and off-campus activities are creative and comprehensive; they help the residents with sense of accomplishment, reduce stress, improve coping skills and psychological well-being.*
- *Solid financial practices are in place, with strong oversight....the budget is made with all departments offering feedback from all levels of staff.*

Based on their findings, COA's volunteer-based Accreditation Commission determined that LaSalle School successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

Mark Silverbush, LCSW-R, ACSW serves as Associate Executive Director of Quality, Strategy and Compliance and facilitates the accreditation process and oversees the schools multi-year strategic plan.

An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the US State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to accredit intercountry adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only national accreditor designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and processes for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of 47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit www.coanet.org.

#