This FAST FACTS analyzes the base salaries of independent school heads with a comparison of the median salaries for NAIS heads as a whole and an SAIS subgroup over the past five years. All data comes from NAIS FactsOnline.

The charted data below indicates there is a notable difference between the median salaries of the SAIS subgroup of heads, versus NAIS heads as a whole. NAIS heads’ salaries have been about 10% greater than the SAIS subgroup. However, the compensation disparity is decreasing: The 2011-2012 school year saw that difference cut in half to about 5 percent. (It is not yet clear whether this is a trend or whether this is a data anomaly based on a smaller sample size; only 106 SAIS schools reported this statistic for 2011-2012, versus about 40 more in previous years.)

The good news for independent school heads is that, despite challenging economic times, heads’ salaries, whether in the NAIS as a whole or within the SAIS subgroup, have steadily increased. The NAIS average increase over the past 5 years has been 3.73% and the SAIS increase has been 5.10%.

The numbers presented in this FAST FACTS can be useful to all heads reflecting on their own compensation packages.

-Dr. Jeffrey Mitchell, Headmaster
Tuscaloosa Academy

FAST FACTS provides SAIS members with fast, readable, and pertinent information based on the quantitative analysis of one important question.

FAST FACTS encourages members to submit questions for future issues. If you have questions you would like answered via FAST FACTS please send to angela@sais.org.

All good RESEARCH starts with a good QUESTION.