



About WASC



The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the gold standard of worldwide accreditation and one of six regional accrediting agencies in the United States, works closely with the Office of Overseas Schools under the U.S. Department of State.

We provide accreditation and comprehensive school improvement assistance to schools throughout the world. We work with over 5,200 public, private, independent, and proprietary pre-K-12 and adult schools, 20 associations in joint accreditation processes, and other stakeholder organizations such as the International Baccalaureate (IB).

Why Accreditation?

- Assures a school community that the school's purposes are appropriate and accomplished through a viable education program — a trustworthy institution for student learning
- Validates the integrity of the school's program and transcripts
- Facilitates transfer of credits to other English-speaking schools — critical for college/university acceptance worldwide
- Fosters the ongoing improvement of the school's programs and operations to support student learning and well-being
- Provides valuable insight from fellow educators visiting the school
- Benefits schools that choose joint accreditation or other collaborative processes, e.g., WASC/CIS and the integration of WASC and IBO.

We Are Student Centered Accreditation: A Value-Added Process

Schools add value by...

- Increasing what students know
- Increasing what students can do
- Improving how students feel
 - about themselves
 - about others
 - about their learning

STATISTICS



schools served



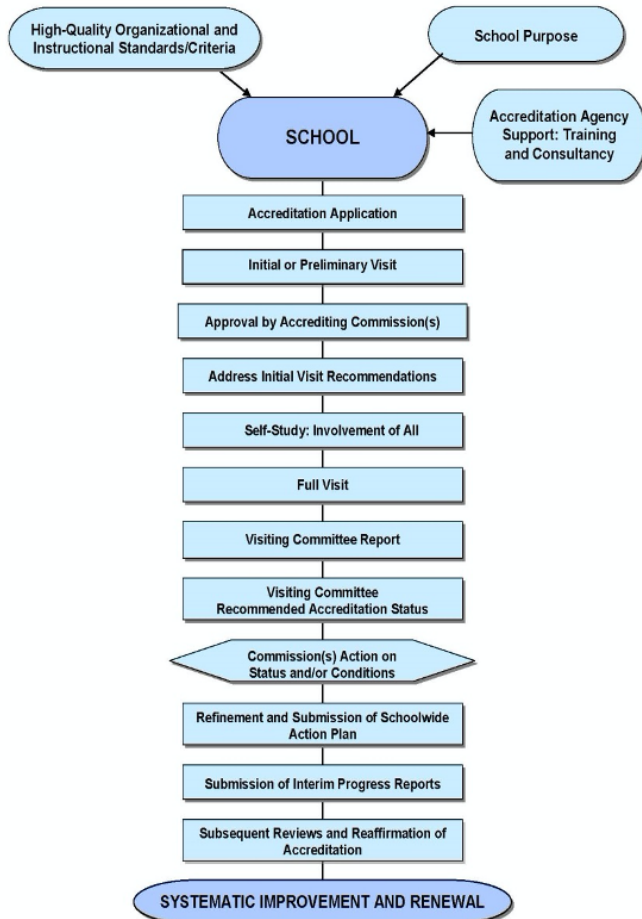
international
schools served



annual school
visitation
members

The **philosophy** of **WASC** centers upon three beliefs: (1) a school's goal is successful student learning; (2) each school has a clear purpose and schoolwide student goals; and (3) a school engages in external and internal evaluations as part of continued school improvement to support student learning.

ACCREDITATION: A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS



International Accreditation Process

The 5 or 6-year International Accreditation Process involves three main components leading to successful school accreditation:

- Initial Visit Process (one to two day visit by two member team)
- Self-Study Process/Full Visit (involves all stakeholders in clarifying desired outcomes)
- Follow-Up Process (including annual assessment of school wide action plan progress)

Testimonials

"I love the WASC process because it is focused on moving a school forward through intentional discussions on key criteria that are proven to be present in outstanding schools. In the end, schools are in a better place because of the intense focus on supporting the learning and well-being of all students."

— **Ronald Carruth, Ed.D., District Superintendent**

"As a principal, I used the accreditation visits as an opportunity to celebrate successes, and reflect with peers about our next steps to address key issues. The visit became an important opportunity to publicly own the areas for improvement and declare our commitment to addressing them."

— **Greg Franklin, Ed.D., District Superintendent**



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www.acswasc.org

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