



Accrediting Commission for Schools

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TO: California High School Superintendents and Principals
FROM: David Brown, Executive Director, Western Association of Schools and Colleges
RE: WASC Visiting Team Service and Reimbursements

I know you're busy with the challenges of meeting the daunting needs of operating schools in our present challenging financial environment. Nonetheless, I have two brief requests for your consideration.

1. Service on WASC Visiting Teams — Most of the WASC visiting team work occurs during the months of February, March, and April. We're finding that many teachers are being excluded from participating on teams because of the costs of substitute teachers associated with their participation. Most of you have heard my argument that "there is no less expensive or more productive professional development than serving on a WASC team." Teacher presence on our teams is vital. It enhances the credibility of the process and brings a critical perspective to the work of the visiting team. If your school/district has disallowed teacher involvement for financial reasons, I urge your reconsideration of that policy.

2. Reimbursement Procedures — With WASC's new reimbursement policy (direct reimbursement from schools to self-study visiting team members for hotel, meal, and transportation costs), several districts are requiring members to complete individual independent contractor agreements in order to be reimbursed. Both Ron Bennett, President of School Services of California, and Sue Burr, Executive Director of California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) have endorsed the notion that this is unnecessary. People, like you, serve on WASC teams as volunteers, so we appreciate your help in avoiding IRS implications, etc.

Please know how grateful we are for your support of the accreditation process. We're determined to continue to make our protocols more efficient and more relevant. Your comments and suggestions are valued. Again, your assistance with these two items will be much appreciated.

Per previous WASC correspondence, beginning this year we have changed our reimbursement policy for full self-study visits in California. For your reference, please see the table below for reimbursement information for 2009–10 WASC visits to schools in California. Additional information can be found on the Welcome page of the WASC website at www.acswasc.org under "Recent WASC News."

VISIT	REIMBURSEMENT
Initial Visits	Team expenses are reimbursed by WASC
Full Self-Study Visits	NEW: Team expenses are reimbursed by the <u>school</u> * *Except for self-study visits to LAUSD schools; they will be integrated into the new reimbursement policy next year beginning with the 2009-10 school year.
Three-Year Term Revisits	Team expenses are reimbursed by WASC
Six-Year Midterm Review	Team expenses are reimbursed by WASC
Substantive Change Visits	Team expenses are reimbursed by WASC
Limited Term Revisits	Team expenses are reimbursed by WASC

Note: Schools with visits that are reimbursed by the WASC Office have already been assessed a visit fee.