ACS WASC Mid-Cycle and Revisit Training

School and Visiting Committee Processes for 2015 Visits
I taught Spot how to whistle.

I don't hear him whistling.

I said I taught him. I didn't say he learned it.
Workshop Goals

School’s process since last full self-study or visit

Roles and responsibilities for a Revisit for Schools and Visiting Committees

Commission Action
ACS WASC Accreditation Cycle of Quality

- **Follow-up**
  - Focus on Learning
  - Reassess

- **Self-Study**
  - Assess

- **Visit**
  - Plan
  - Implement
One Umbrella Plan
Schoolwide Action Plan

How do school staff members ensure the plan will strengthen student achievement?

Visualize what will be different for students.....

One year from now?
Two years from now?
Three years from now?
Mid-cycle/Revisit Purpose

• Progress report and visit focus on demonstrating that school staff has
  • Made progress in addressing the critical areas for follow-up, especially though implementing the schoolwide action plan
  • Improved student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner outcomes and academic standards
  
• Visit results will determine future accreditation status of the school
School’s Responsibilities

- Prepare school report using guidelines
- Written Progress Report
  - Sent to VC 4-5 weeks prior to visit and ACS WASC office (mail@acswasc.org)
  - Procedures at www.acswasc.org

- Communicate with the chairperson

- Establish schedule for the visit
Student/Community Profile

Updated Profile from Self-Study, including student demographic and achievement data for a 3-year period (see Task 1 of the Focus on Learning manual)

Include Summary of Data with implications and identified critical learner needs and important questions for staff discussion
School Progress
Mid-Cycle/Revisit Report Format: **Section II & III**

**Section II: Significant Changes and/or Developments**
(since last full self-study)

**Section III: Ongoing School Improvement**

Engagement of all stakeholders in review of student achievement data and implementing/monitoring of the schoolwide action plan

Preparing of annual progress reports
School Progress

Mid-Cycle/Revisit Report Format: Section IV

Schoolwide Action Plan Progress

Accomplishment of each schoolwide action plan section referencing the critical areas of follow-up addressed through each section

Evidence supporting how each area has impacted student achievement

Progress and supporting evidence on critical areas of follow-up not included in the plan
School Progress

Mid-Cycle/Revisit Report Format: **Section V**

Schoolwide Action Plan Refinements

Indicate refinements made to schoolwide action plan since the last full visit to reflect progress and identified new issues

**Appendix:** modified schoolwide action plan since prior full visit
How can the Leadership Team, Schoolwide Focus, Stakeholder, and other groups ensure that the progress report findings are supported by analyzed evidence?
**School’s Progress Report: Section IV**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Progress: Each Action Plan section noting integrated critical areas for follow-up * (mark with asterisk)</th>
<th>Supporting Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Researched available and initiated professional development for all teachers around reading strategies (2013)</em></td>
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Observable Evidence Requires
Analyzing Results of

What students are doing/producing

Student interviews/observations

Hard data and information

Other observations and interviews
Samples of Evidence for Visiting Committee

Formative assessments and how teachers use them

Examples of differentiation of instruction

Staff development calendar

Student interview transcripts

Minutes from team meetings

Overall campus impression – conducive to learning

Student portfolios and work samples – teacher or student reelection
How does the current school program impact student learning....
Critical learner needs?
Schoolwide learner outcomes?
Academic standards?
Summary Conclusions

Critical Learner Needs

Documents
Criteria
Student Work

Learner Goals

Profile Data

Professional Knowledge
Students Working
Interviews and Surveys

Progress Report
Review Questions

- Do the findings of progress address the identified critical areas for follow-up?
- Does the evidence support progress?
- Have staff gained insight about the degree to which learning is being supported and provided analyzed student achievement data?
- Does the current schoolwide action plan reflect the progress to date and next steps?
Schedule

Mid-Cycle – 1 or 2 ½ days
Three Year Revisits – 2 ½ days
Probationary Revisits – 2 ½ days
Previsit Committee Responsibilities

Chair: Work with school staff and members

Chair and VC Members:
Follow guidelines for VC after carefully study school’s progress report. Complete prewriting
Where is the school now?
Where’s it going?
Does it have a good roadmap?
Visiting Committee Chair Process

Review ACS WASC criteria

Study previous self-study/visiting committee reports and action plans

Obtain as much evidence ahead of time along with the school’s report

Use critical areas for follow-up and the school’s action plan as areas of focus for visit

Works with principal/self-study coordinator to set visit schedule

Communicates all information to VC members

Submits expenses to ACS WASC office for reimbursement
Sample Areas for VC Discussion/Exploration*

As work progressed, what was the easiest to accomplish? Why? Lessons learned?

Involvement of all stakeholders?
Addressing student achievement as an overall school focus – targeted actions.

Professional development and its impact on student learning.
Regular communication and sharing – culture.

* Areas are dependent on school’s critical areas for follow-up and action plan.
Sample Areas for VC Discussion/Exploration*

Use of formative assessment to adjust instruction? Examples. How representative?

Use of data (trends, patterns, anomalies); multiple sources.

Link between assessments and what actually occurs daily in instruction.

Thorough understanding of standard-based environment – meeting schoolwide learner outcomes and addressing Common Core Standards.

* Areas are dependent on school’s critical areas for follow-up and action plan.
VC: Tips on Interviewing

Phrase open-ended questions.

Listen.

Use language appropriate for the interviewee.

Watch nonverbal behavior.

Avoid biased questions.

Other tips...
Visiting Committee Report Format

I. Introduction
   • General comments about school and its setting; analysis of student achievement data
   • Significant changes/developments that have affected school since last visit
   • Comments on school’s process for follow-up

II. School’s Progress on Critical Areas for Follow-up
   • Accomplishment of each schoolwide action plan section showing how critical areas for follow-up have been incorporated
   • Impact on student achievement
   • Progress on critical areas for follow-up not included in the plan

III. Recommendations/Commendations
   • Recommendations, if any
   • Commendations related to progress, if any
Accreditation Status Options: **Mid-Cycle/Revisit** (1 or 2 days)

Normally, reaffirms the accreditation cycle of quality

However, if sufficient progress has not been made, the Commission may request one or both of these additional actions

- a follow-up progress report and visit
- a follow-up report, including a revised action plan

Other conditions

VC explains rationale for recommendation on one-page justification statement that is signed by all members.
Accreditation Status Options:  Probationary

One-Year Probationary Accreditation
Accreditation status granted with a mid-cycle progress report and visit in two years

Accreditation status granted with a mid-cycle progress report and visit in one year

Accreditation status withheld

Two-Year Probationary Accreditation
Accreditation status granted with a mid-cycle progress report and visit in one year

Accreditation status withheld
Accreditation Status Options: **Progress Visits**

**Fourth Year Progress Visit**

Accreditation status reaffirmed with a full self-study and visit in **two years**

Accreditation status withheld
Post-Visit Information: VC Chairperson

Send a copy of Visiting Committee Report to school and ACS WASC electronically

Sends the accreditation status recommendation and a copy of the justification statement and Visiting Committee Report to ACS WASC electronically

Informs school personnel that ACS WASC will send an official letter regarding the accreditation status granted
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