

The WASC Accrediting Commission meets three times a year to discuss the findings of visiting committees and the supporting evidence in school reports. The decision of the WASC commission is the composite judgment of its commissioners.

Accreditation Term Determination

A term of accreditation is the period of time that best reflects the degree to which (1) the school is a trustworthy institution of learning, and (2) the school is implementing an improvement process that will improve student learning. Visiting committees make the recommendation for a term based upon a school demonstrating the following:

1. Involvement and collaboration of shareholders in doing the self-study that accomplish the six parameters of the self-study.
2. Defining the school's purpose through General Learner Outcomes and Hawaii Content and Performance Standards.
3. The use of a professionally acceptable assessment processes to collect, disaggregate, and analyze student performance data.
4. Acceptable progress by all students toward clearly defined expected schoolwide learning results, academic standards, and other institutional and/or governing authority expectations.
5. Meeting WASC/DOE criteria:
 - A. Organization
 - Vision and Mission (Purpose)
 - School Culture
 - Governance, Leadership and Staff
 - Resources
 - B. Standards-based Student Learning: Curriculum (What are students learning?)
 - C. Standards-based Student Learning: Instruction (How are students learning?)
 - D. Standards-based Student Learning: Assessment and Accountability (How is student assessment used?)
 - E. Quality Student Support for Student Personal and Academic Growth
6. The alignment of a long-range, schoolwide School Strategic Plan and annual Academic and Financial Plan to the school's areas of greatest need to support high achievement of all students.
7. The capacity to implement and monitor the three-year, schoolwide School Strategic Plan and the annual Academic and Financial Plan.
8. The use of prior accreditation findings and other pertinent data to ensure high achievement of all students and to drive school improvement.

Summary of Accreditation Terms

The terms of accreditation are summarized below. Please see pp. 137–139 for a more detailed description of the terms.

- ✓ **A Term of Accreditation for Six Years:** A term of **six** years with a written Progress Report to the School’s governing authority on the major recommendations or critical areas listed in the Visiting Committee Report. Upon review and formal acceptance by the board, the report will be filed with the WASC office.
 - ✓ **A Term of Accreditation for Six Years with a Review (6R):** A term of **six** years with a complete Progress Report on major recommendations or critical areas and one day on-site review visit by a two member committee to be completed no later than the third year of the six year term.
 - ✓ **A Term of Accreditation for Three Years:** A term of **three** years with a complete Progress Report on critical areas of improvement and action plans, and a two-day visit as a requisite to continued accreditation.
 - ✓ **A Term of Accreditation for One or Two Years:** A term of one or two years with a complete Progress Report and revisit to serve as a “warning” that unless prompt attention is given to major recommendations or critical areas, accreditation may be denied.
 - ✓ **Denial of Accreditation:** Denial of accreditation based on conditions detailed in the Visiting Committee Report.
- ➔ **Note:** The Commission reserves the right to grant terms of accreditation other than those above, including a recommendation for a full self-study at any time. Such action will follow a Commission review of the Visiting Committee Report.

Follow-up

After the Visiting Committee leaves, the school reviews the Visiting Committee Report and integrates the critical areas of follow-up identified by the visiting committee into the long-range and annual plan. The school leadership coordinates the refinement and implementation of the school improvement plan, i.e., the School Strategic Plan and the annual Academic and Financial Plan. The school will conduct an annual review of the progress made in accomplishing the School Strategic Plan and the annual Academic and Financial Plan. This assessment of progress is always done with respect to evidence that students are accomplishing the General Learner Outcomes and the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards, especially in relation to the critical student learning needs. The governing authority (i.e., complex area offices) will review quarterly progress reports from the school as part of the support for school improvement. (See Appendix C for a sample of the progress report template.)