



Accrediting Commission for Schools
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Accrediting Commission for Schools, WASC

Accreditation Process Overview





ACS WASC Focus on Learning On Target for 21st Century Schools





ACS WASC Overview

- **Background of ACS WASC accreditation**
- **ACS WASC accreditation: A Powerful Process for School Change**
- **What is accreditation?**
- **Why accreditation is so important?**
- **ACS WASC seven international accreditation principles**
- **Getting Started: The Initial Visit Process**
- **Focus on Learning (FOL) Accreditation's Cycle of Quality**
 - ✓ **Self-Study**
 - ✓ **The Visit**
 - ✓ **The Follow-up or Ongoing Improvement**



Accrediting Commission for Schools, WASC

- **A private, nonprofit, regional accrediting association in the United States**
- **Accrediting K-12 schools and non-degree granting postsecondary institutions**
- **Serves schools worldwide, primarily to schools located in California, Hawaii, Guam, Asia, the Pacific Region, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe**



Accrediting Commission for Schools, WASC

- **ACS WASC works closely with the U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Schools**
- **ACS WASC extends services to approximately 4,600 pre-K to 12 public and private schools of various types and non-degree granting postsecondary institutions**
- **Works with 17 other associations in joint processes, such as California and Hawaii state departments of education, CIS, ACSI, and CAIS**
- **The ACS WASC Commission (Board) is composed of 32 members from various organizations**



What is Accreditation?

- **The quality or state of being trustworthy or credible for student learning (Root is French word meaning “to credit”)**
- **An Ongoing Cycle of School Improvement**

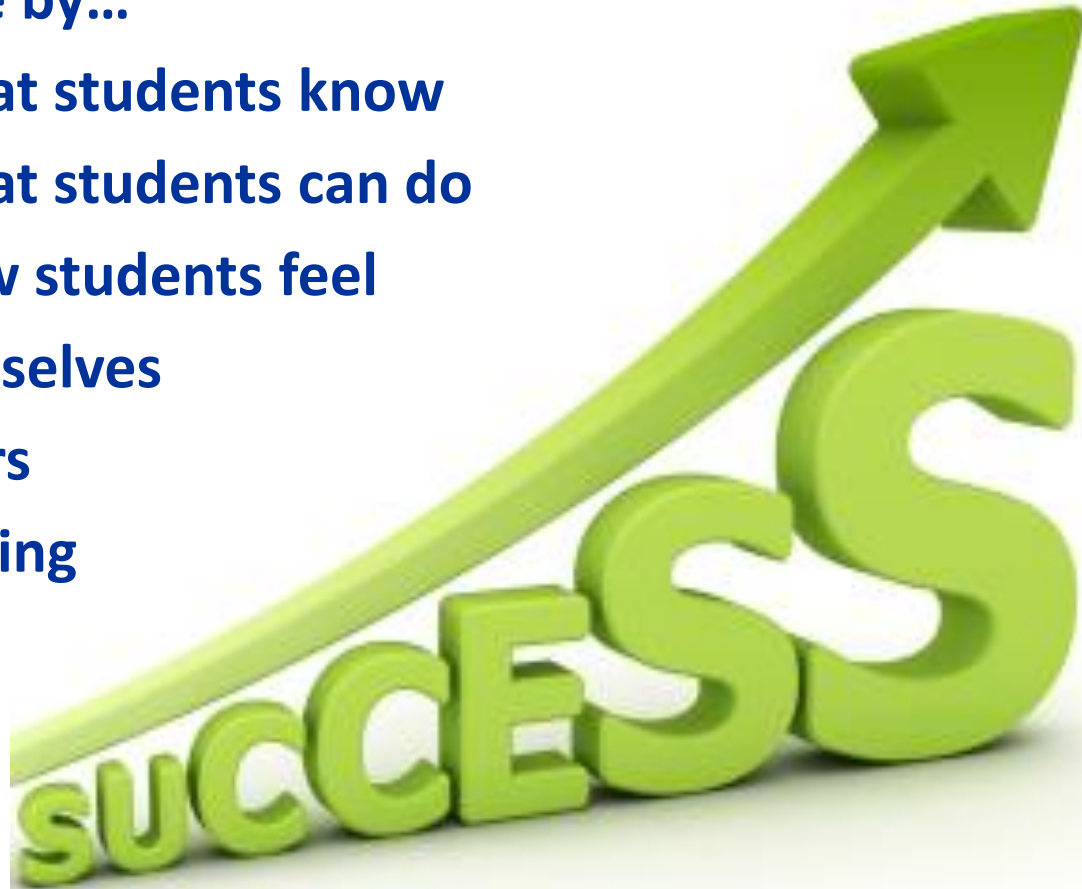




Accreditation: A Value-Added Evaluation

Schools add value by...

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





Why Accreditation?

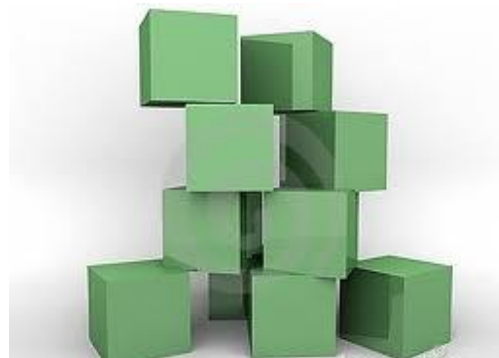
- Assures a school community school is trustworthy for student learning in a global society
- Validates integrity of school's program and transcripts worldwide for university acceptance
- Fosters ongoing improvement to support learning
- Provides valuable insight from educators visiting the school
- Benefits schools choosing collaborative processes, e.g., WASC/CDE



Focus on Learning ↔ **School Change**

ACS WASC Accreditation Cycle of Quality

Built on



ACS WASC Seven Accreditation Principles



ACS WASC Seven Accreditation Principles

1. Accomplishment of school purpose (core beliefs, vision, mission) and schoolwide learner outcomes...

What all students should know, understand and be able to do in order to be globally competent, i.e., a global citizen.





Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

Characteristics:

- Include current learning needs and global competencies/21st century skills
- For all students
- Interdisciplinary (within all subjects)
- Assessable





Schoolwide Learner Outcomes Sample Excerpt

Students will be:

INNOVATIVE THINKERS

- **Build on the ideas, explanations, and reasons of others**
- **Summarize, analyze, interpret, and evaluate information**
- **Define problem and use problem-solving strategies appropriate to the context**
- **Create original work**
- **Use technology to create products of high quality**



ACS WASC Seven Accreditation Principles (cont.)

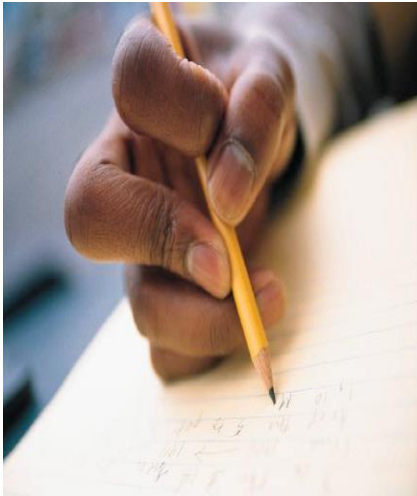
- 2. High achievement of all students based on schoolwide learner outcomes/curricular standards**





ACS WASC Seven Accreditation Principles (cont.)

3. Use of multiple ways to analyze data about student achievement





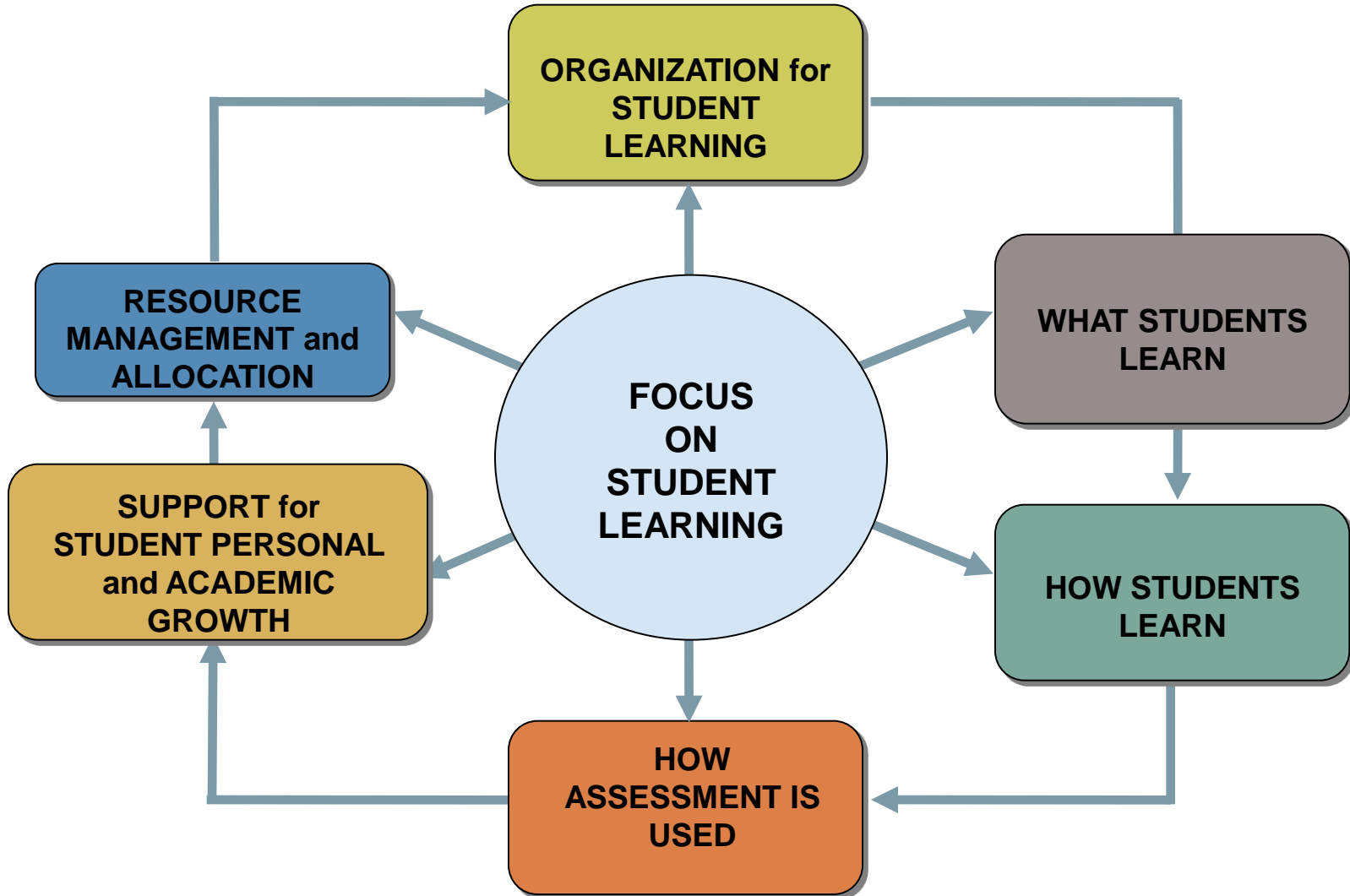
ACS WASC Seven Accreditation Principles (cont.)

- 4. Program evaluation in relation to schoolwide learner outcomes, standards and research-based ACS WASC criteria and indicators**





ACS WASC Criteria Categories





ACS WASC Seven Accreditation Principles (cont.)

5. Alignment of findings to a schoolwide action plan



- Strategic Plan
- Technology Plan
- Staff Development Plan



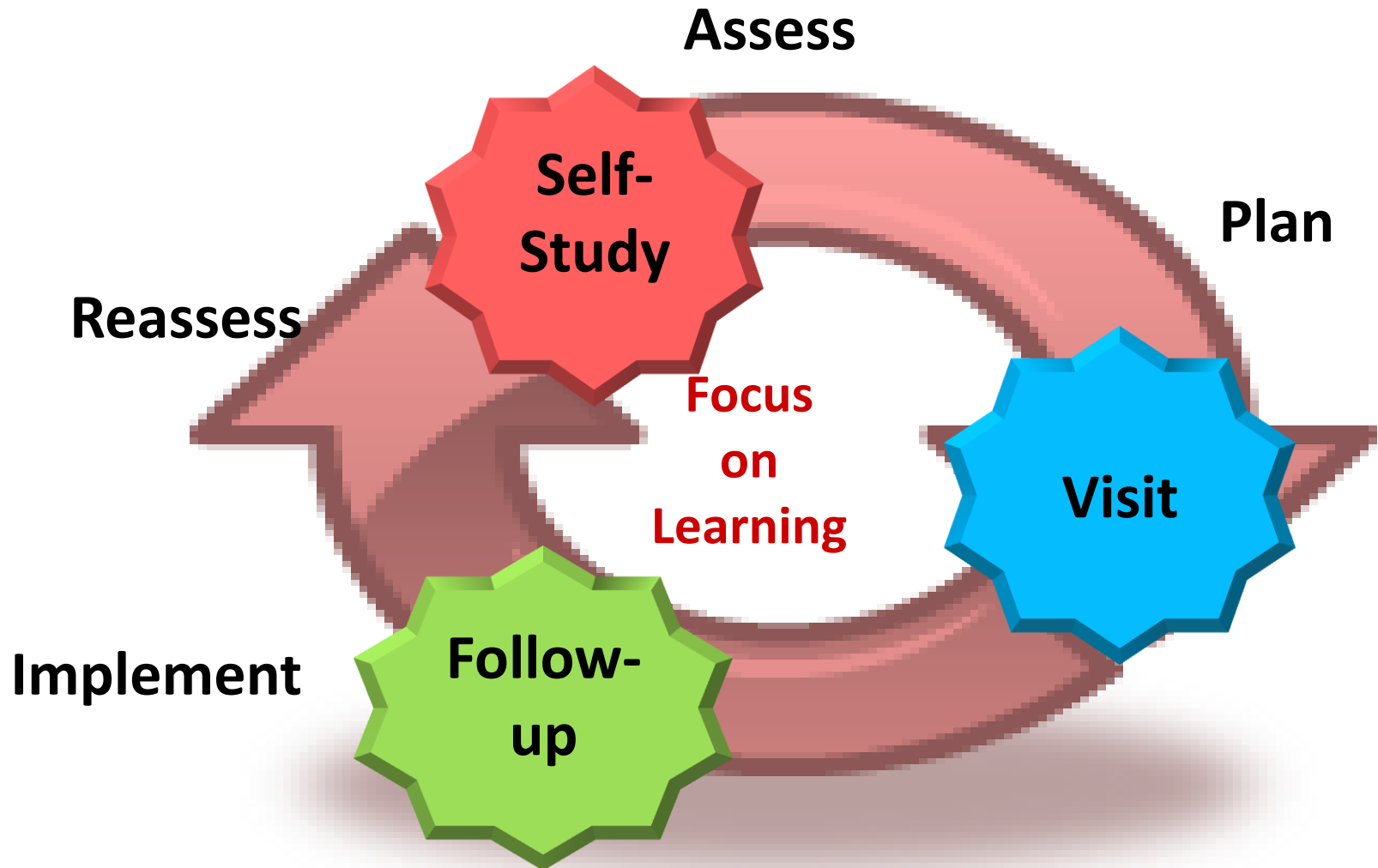
ACS WASC Seven Accreditation Principles (cont.)

- 6. Evaluation of ongoing improvement and impact on student learning**
- 7. Total involvement/collaboration of all leaders, board members, teachers, staff, students, parents, and others**





ACS WASC FOL Accreditation Cycle of Quality





Initial Visit: Beginning the Accreditation Process

- **Initial Visit**

A two-day visit by a two-member team to understand the school...

- **its vision, mission, schoolwide learner outcomes**
- **its program and operations based upon the ACS WASC criteria and indicators**
 - **Dialogue with all stakeholders**
 - **Observation of students involved in the program**
 - **Review of documentation**
 - **Initial visiting committee report with recommendations**



Initial Visit Results

ACS WASC Commission action on candidacy



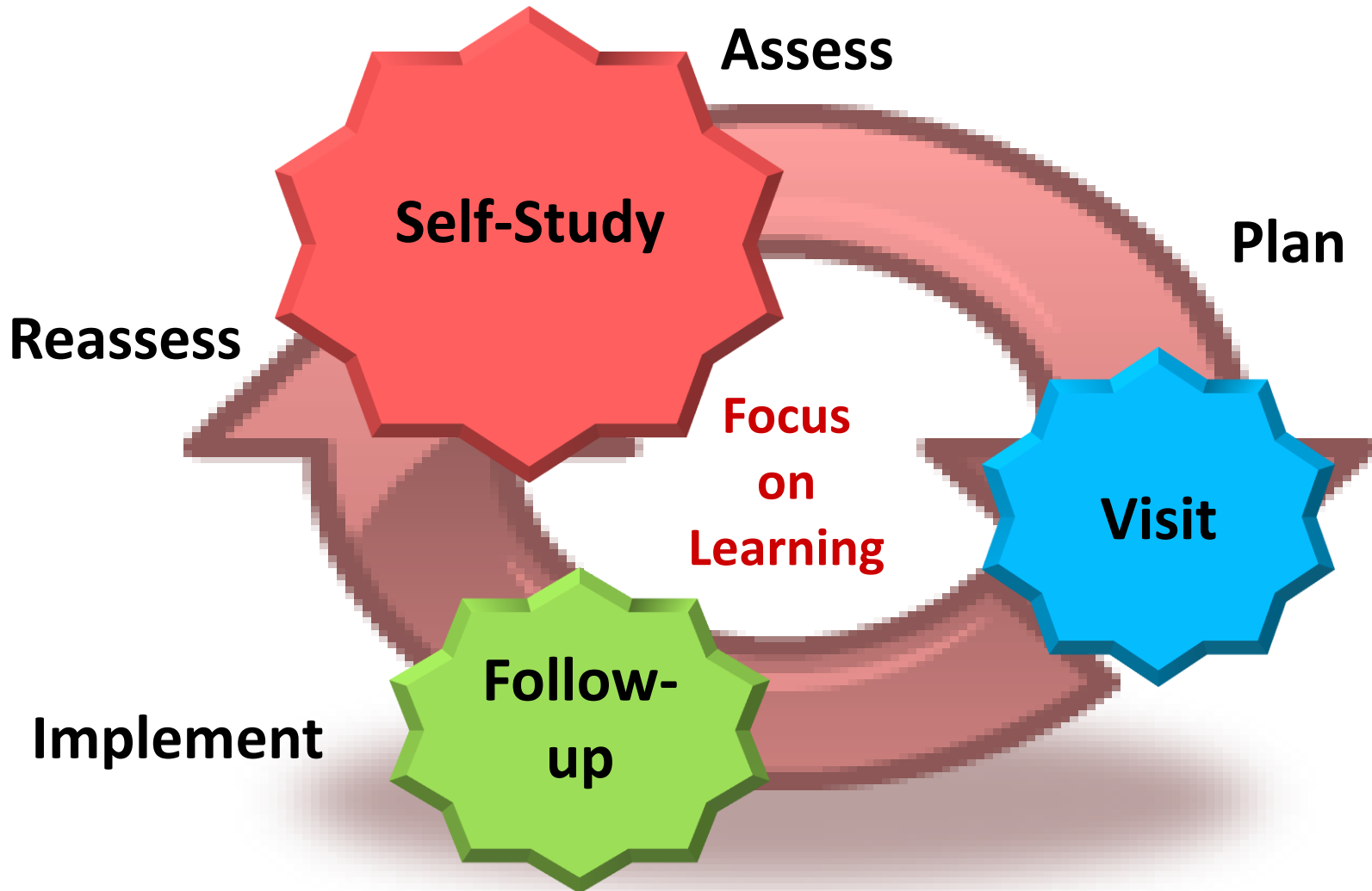
School addresses initial visit recommendations



School begins and completes self-study/full visit within 2–3 years of candidacy



ACS WASC FOL Accreditation Cycle of Quality





Summary: Focus on Learning Self-Study Process

What?

What is the ideal based upon...?

- ***Vision, Mission, Schoolwide Learner Outcomes***
- ***ACS WASC international criteria and indicators***
- ***Curricular standards***

So What?

***What currently exists?
How effective is it?***

Now What?

What and how will we modify?

What should be in the schoolwide action plan?



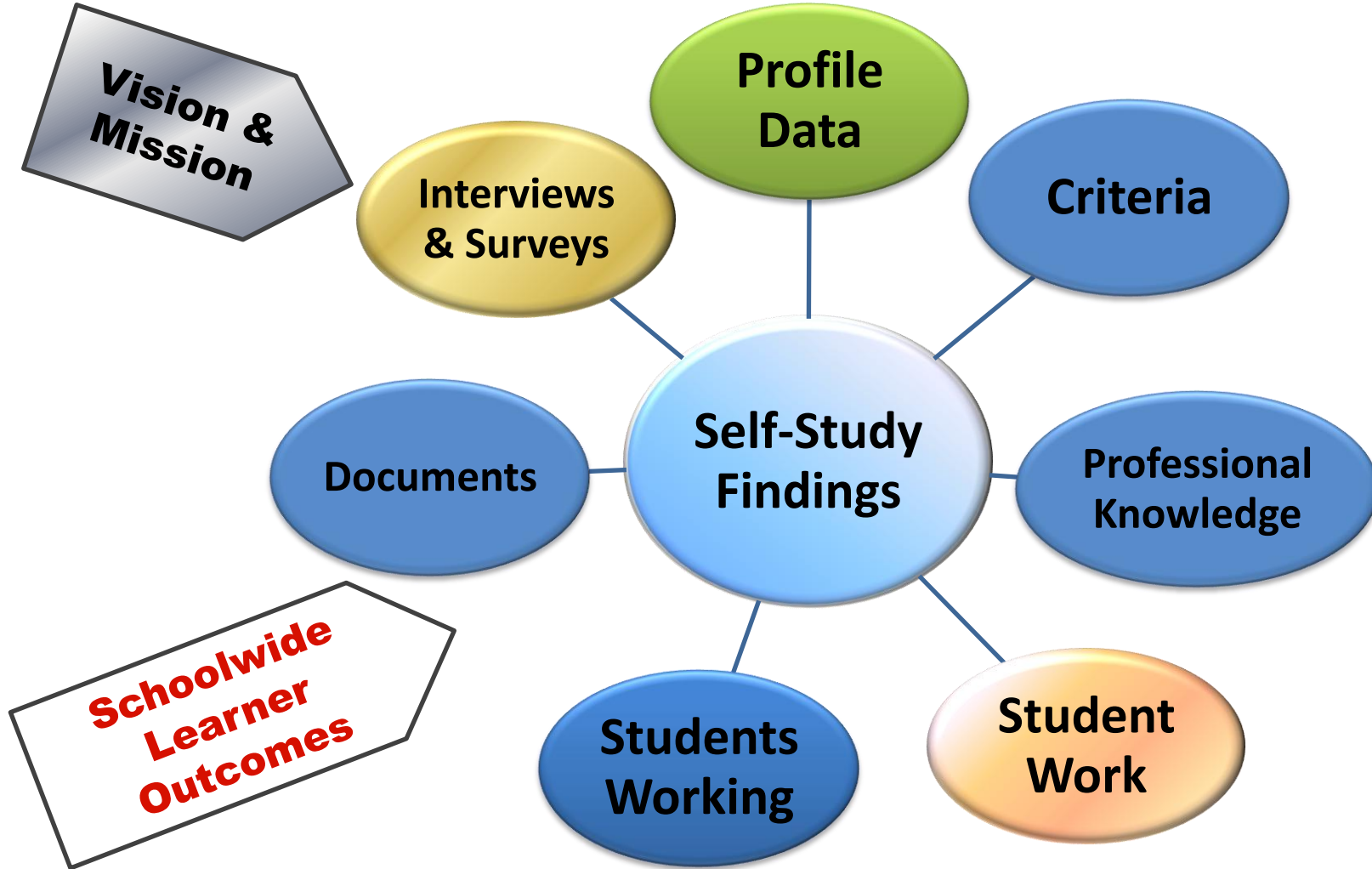
Observable evidence includes analyzing results of...

- **What students are doing and producing**
- **Student interviews and observations**
- **Hard data and information**
- **Other interviews, observations, etc.**





Self-Study Process: The “So What” Question? What currently exists? How effective?





Self-Study: Schoolwide Action Plan





Important School Questions about the Action Plan

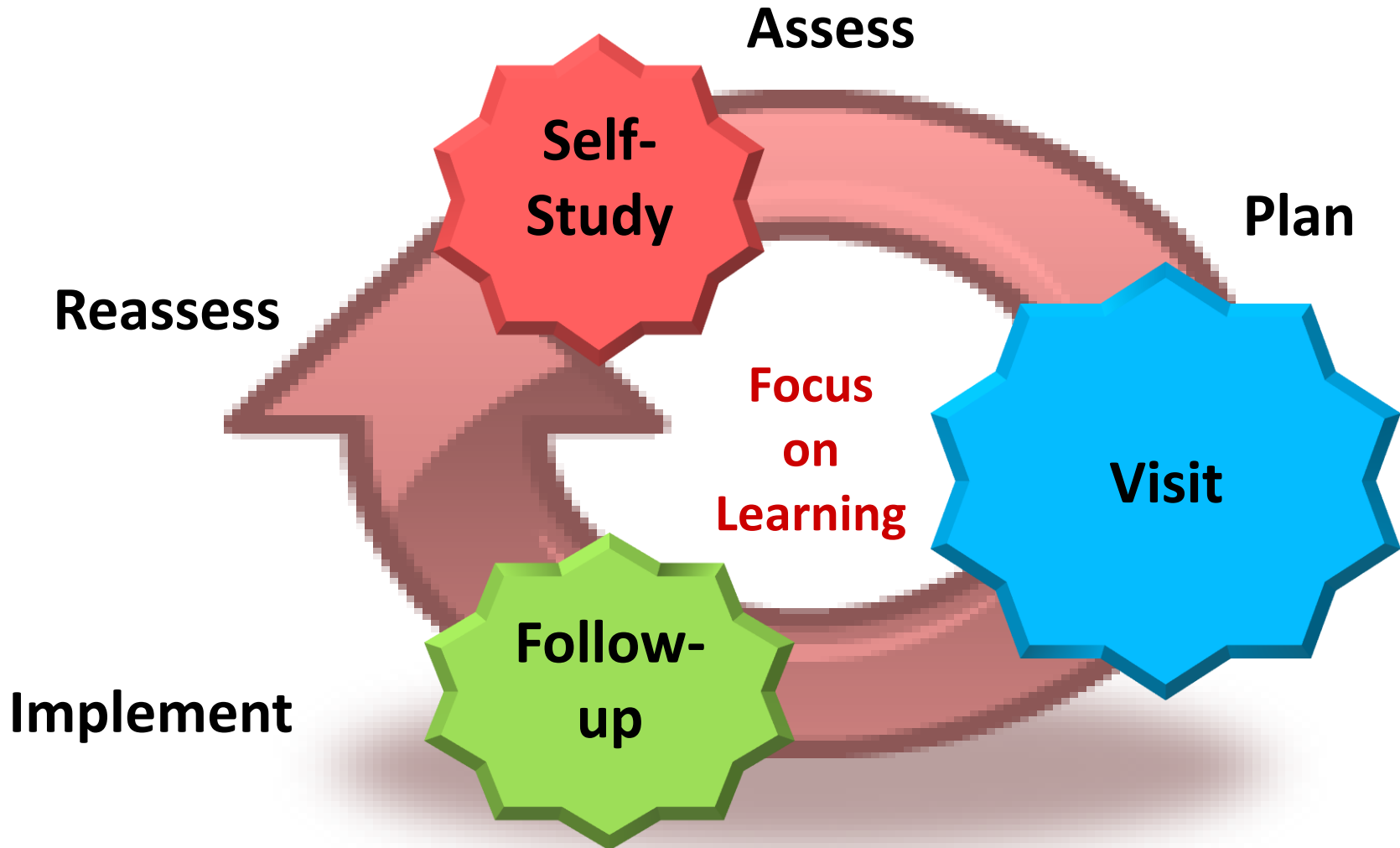


Through implementing the Action Plan, what will be different for students as global citizens?

- One year from now?**
- Two years from now?**
- Three years from now?**



ACS WASC FOL Accreditation Cycle of Quality





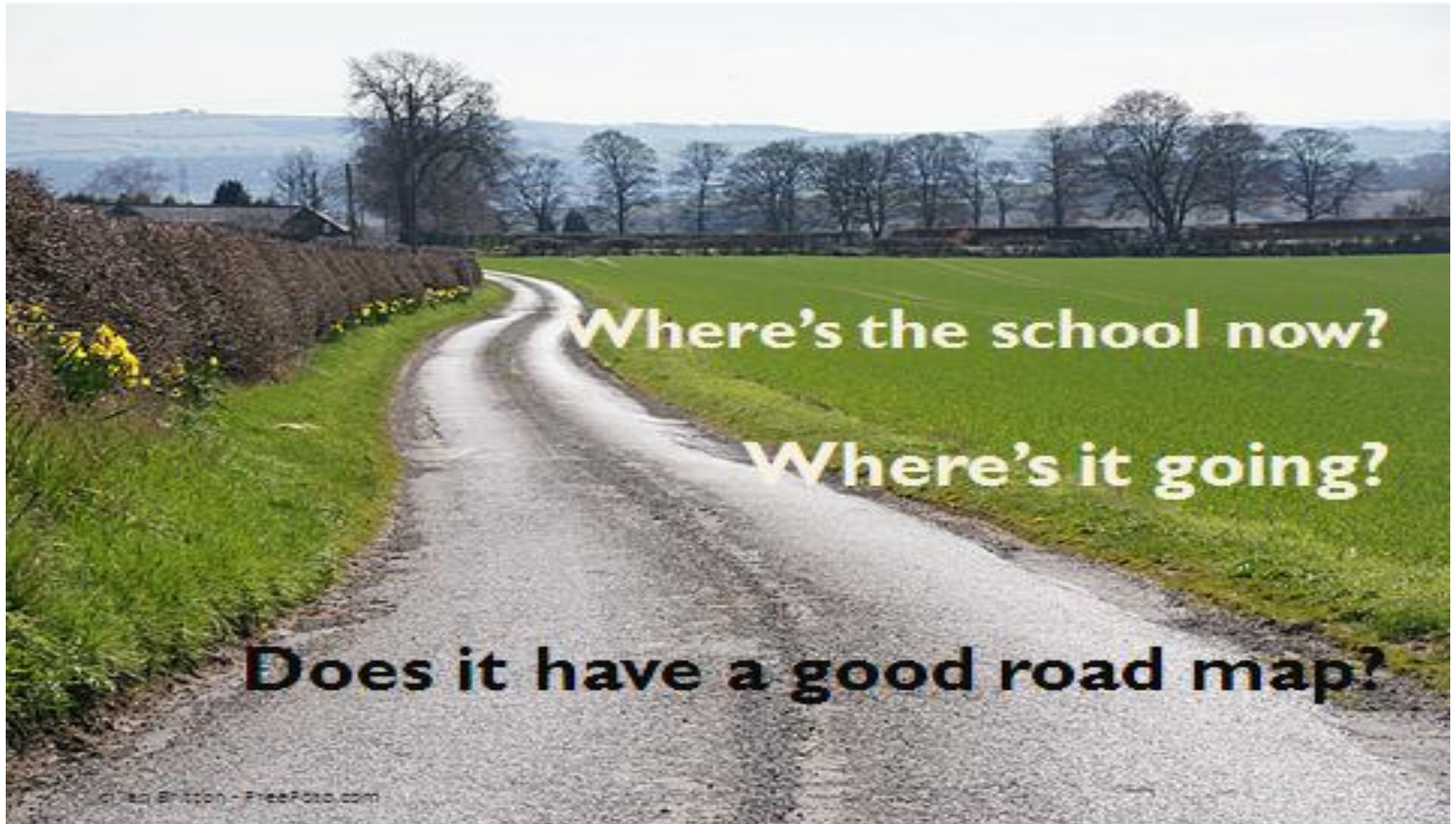
The Visit: Visiting Committee (VC) Members



**ACS WASC VC Members Strengthen School's Core Work —
Improving Student Learning**



The Visit: Are Students Achieving as Global Citizens?





The Visit

- **Insight and perspective of the Visiting Committee**
 - ✓ **Validation**
 - ✓ **Enhancement**
- **Support of the chair**
- **Three to eight educators**
- **Visit is usually 3–½ days, Asia 4–½ days**
- **The Visiting Committee Report is based on:**
 - ✓ **Self-Study**
 - ✓ **Findings during visit**
 - ✓ **ACS WASC criteria (or joint ACS WASC/affiliate criteria, e.g., ACS WASC/ACSI)**



Accreditation Status Factors: VC Recommendation and Commission Action

To what extent is the school demonstrating quality student achievement/improvement?

1. Meeting the ACS WASC international criteria and indicators
2. Clear globally minded purpose and schoolwide learner outcomes
3. Quality processes to analyze student achievement
4. Action plan aligned to areas of greatest need
5. Capacity to implement/monitor action plan
6. Use of prior accreditation findings
7. Involvement and collaboration of all

Highly effective

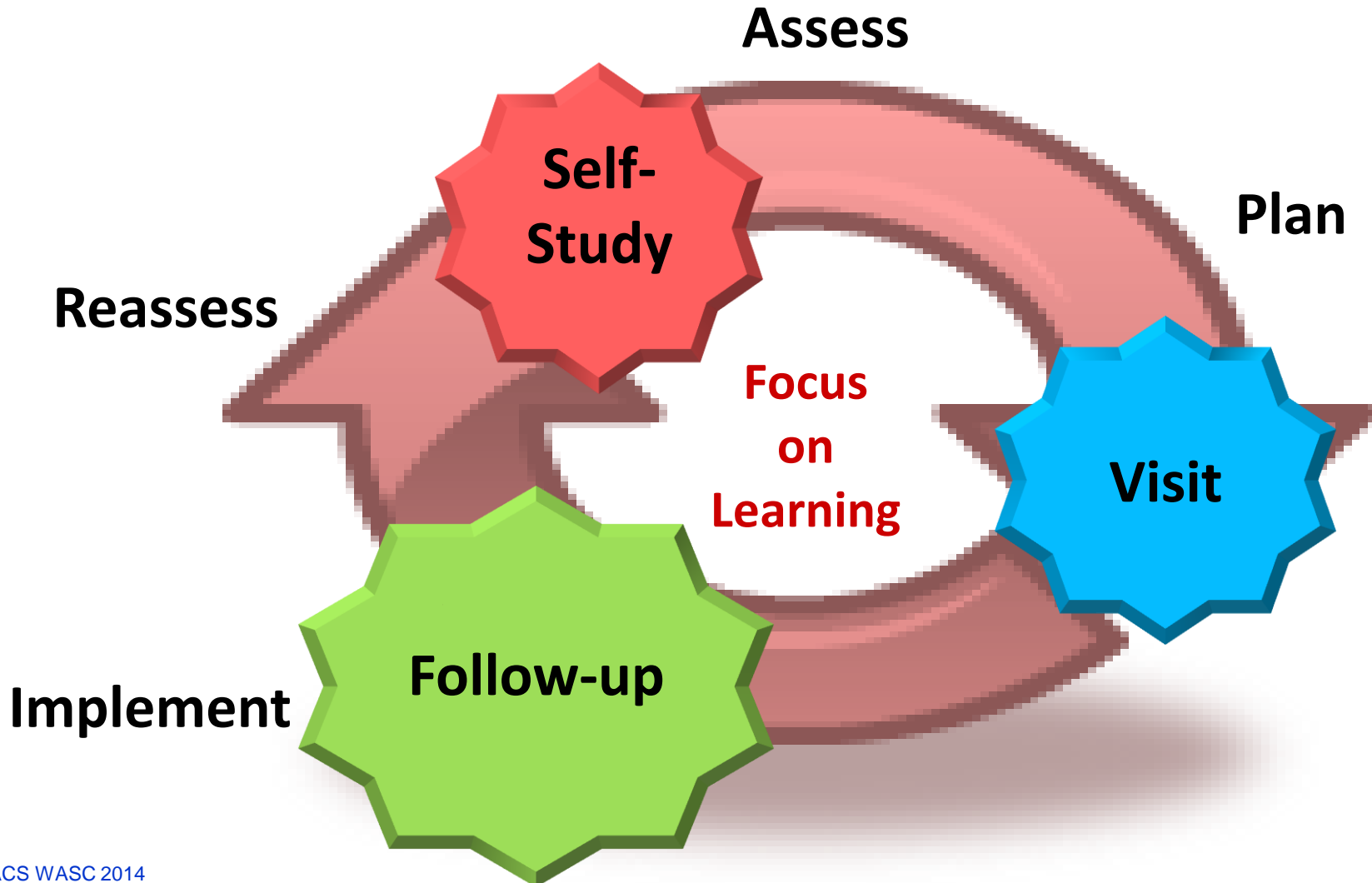
Effective

Somewhat effective

Ineffective



ACS WASC FOL Accreditation Cycle of Quality





The Follow-Up: After Visit

The school:

- **Revises the schoolwide Action Plan**
 - Includes recommendations from the Visiting Committee
 - Submits Plan to ACS WASC
- **Annually reviews progress on Action Plan based on Schoolwide Learner Outcomes — Global Competencies**
- **Revises the Action Plan as needed**
- **Submits annual progress report to ACS WASC**
- **Has periodic visits from ACS WASC**

W

We

A

Are

S

Student

C

Centered

