

ACS WASC/NLSA Focus on Learning Schoolwide Criteria

A. ORGANIZATION FOR STUDENT LEARNING

SCHOOL PURPOSE

1. The school has established a clear vision and mission (purpose) that reflects the beliefs and philosophy of the institution. The purpose is defined further by adopted schoolwide learner outcomes that form the basis of the educational program for every student.

GOVERNANCE

2. The governing authority (a) adopts policies which are consistent with the school's vision and mission (purpose) and support the achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes, (b) delegates implementation of these policies to the professional staff, and (c) monitors results.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

3. The school leadership (1) makes decisions to facilitate actions that focus the energies of the school on student achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes; (2) empowers the staff; and (3) encourages commitment, participation, and shared accountability for student learning.

STAFF

4. The school leadership and staff are qualified for their assigned responsibilities, are committed to the school's purpose, and engage in ongoing professional development that promotes student learning.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

5. The school has a safe, healthy, nurturing Christ-focused environment that reflects the school's purpose and is characterized by respect for differences, trust, caring, professionalism, support, and high expectations for each student.

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

6. The school leadership and staff regularly assess student progress toward accomplishing the schoolwide learner outcomes and report student progress to the rest of the school community.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

7. The school leadership facilitates school improvement which (a) is driven by plans of action that will enhance quality learning for all students, (b) has school community support and involvement, (c) effectively guides the work of the school, and (d) provides for accountability through monitoring of the schoolwide action plan.

Over

B. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

1. The school provides a challenging, coherent and relevant curriculum for each student that fulfills the school's purpose and results in student achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes through successful completion of any course of study offered.

HOW STUDENTS LEARN

2. The professional staff a) uses research-based knowledge about teaching and learning; and b) designs and implements a variety of learning experiences that actively engage students at a high level of learning consistent with the school's purpose and schoolwide learner outcomes.

HOW ASSESSMENT IS USED

3. Teacher and student uses of assessment are frequent and integrated into the teaching/learning process. The assessment results are the basis for (a) measurement of each student's progress toward the schoolwide learner outcomes, (b) regular evaluation, modification, and improvement of curriculum and instructional approaches, and (c) allocation of resources.

C. SUPPORT FOR STUDENT PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC GROWTH

STUDENT CONNECTEDNESS

1. Students are connected to a system of support services, activities and opportunities at the school and within the community that meet the challenges of the curricular and co-curricular program in order to achieve the schoolwide learner outcomes and the congregation and school's commission to make disciples based on Matthew 28:18-20.

PARENT/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2. The school leadership employs a wide range of strategies to ensure that parental and community involvement is integral to the school's established support system for students.
3. The church and school work together toward a unified mission to support the discipleship of the students and families and the missional presence of the school within the community.

D. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

RESOURCES

1. The resources available to the school are sufficient to sustain the school program and are effectively used to carry out the school's purpose and student achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes.

RESOURCE PLANNING

2. The governing authority and the school leadership execute responsible resource planning for the future.