



Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges

ACS WASC MID-CYCLE VISIT PROCEDURES (TWO-DAY) SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONS

Schools that receive a six-year accreditation status with a required two-day* mid-cycle visit prepare a progress report to submit to the mid-cycle visiting committee prior to the scheduled visit.

The progress report is a concise compilation of all progress noted since the previous visit. Included in this report should be the progress made on the recommendations and critical areas for follow-up left by the previous visiting committee and any improvement in student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner outcomes and academic standards. Supporting evidence should also be included.

The progress report should be completed and distributed **no later than six weeks prior to the visit.**

A confirmation form will be sent from the ACS WASC office and the school will choose the visit dates. The visit must take place before the end of the third year of the school's six-year cycle of accreditation.

The school works closely with the chairperson in planning the schedule for the visit and the principal is responsible for all logistical arrangements, such as a workroom, etc. The visiting committee makes its own lodging reservations and payments.

Preparation of the School's Progress Report

The progress report should be prepared by the leadership team responsible for monitoring the schoolwide action plan. All stakeholders are encouraged to be involved in the process.

If there are differing opinions regarding the nature and extent of progress, this should be indicated and explained in the report. If changing conditions have made parts of the action plan obsolete, that should be noted and explained.

All stakeholders, including the governing board, should review and approve the report prior to the visit.

The school mid-cycle progress report template can be found on the ACS WASC website at www.acswasc.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf_general/Mid-cycleProgressReportTemplate.doc.

School Progress Report Format

The progress report format is as follows:

I. Student/Community Profile Data

Include the following:

- An updated student/community profile that includes the following: a brief, general description of the school and its programs; the school's vision, mission, and learner outcomes; student and faculty/staff demographics; and student achievement data for a three-year period.
- An updated summary of data with implications, identified critical learner needs, and important questions for staff discussion.

* Visiting committees meet the afternoon preceding the first day of the visit.

→ **Note:** Use the current student/community profile and summary that has been updated annually since the last full visit and other annual progress reports. (See Task 1 or Task 2 of the Focus on Learning manual depending upon the edition used.)

II. Significant School Changes and Developments

- Include a description of any significant changes and/or developments, i.e., program additions since the last full visit, changes in student enrollment, staffing changes.
- Describe the impact these changes and/or developments have had on the school and/or specific curricular programs.

III. Ongoing School Improvement

- Describe the process of engagement of all stakeholders in review of the student achievement data and the implementation and monitoring of the schoolwide action plan.
- Describe the process used to prepare the progress report.

IV. Progress on Critical Areas for Follow-up/Schoolwide Action Plan

- Provide analytical comments on the accomplishment of each schoolwide action plan section referencing the critical areas for follow-up addressed through each section; provide supporting evidence, including how each area has impacted student achievement.
 - If any critical areas for follow-up were not included in the school's action plan, indicate what actions have been taken to address this issue and provide supporting evidence, including the impact on student achievement.
- **Note:** The school's schoolwide action plan should have incorporated all the critical areas of follow-up or major recommendations that were stated in the last self-study visiting committee report.

V. Schoolwide Action Plan Refinements

- Comment on the refinements made to the single schoolwide action plan since the last full self-study visit to reflect schoolwide progress and/or newly identified issues.
- Include a copy of the school's latest updated schoolwide action plan.

Distribution of the School's Progress Report

1. **No later than six weeks prior to the visit**, the school sends a copy of the progress report to each member of the visiting committee with additional materials, such as the current action plan. *It is assumed that annually the school has modified or refined the action plan based on progress noted.*
2. **No later than six weeks prior to the visit**, the school submits a copy of the progress report to ACS WASC in a single PDF or Word document using the Document Upload link on the top navigation bar of the ACS WASC website: www.acswasc.org/document-upload/.

MID-CYCLE VISIT (TWO-DAY) VISITING COMMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS

The mid-cycle visiting committee is typically comprised of the chairperson and additional members from the previous visiting committee, when available. The visiting committee will visit the school to meet with the principal, leadership team, and other groups responsible for the monitoring and implementation of the schoolwide action plan. The visiting committee will focus on the progress made on the critical areas for follow-up (major recommendations) made by the previous ACS WASC visiting committee and review the action plan.

The number of team members is determined by the school's enrollment:

School Enrollment	Number of Team Members
6–1499	2
1500–2499	3
2500 or more	4

A confirmation form will be sent from the ACS WASC office and the school will select the visit dates. The chairperson works closely with the school to coordinate the visit schedule and to determine the lodging accommodations. * Payment and reservations for lodging will either be (1) made by each individual visiting committee member or (2) the chairperson may elect to coordinate this for the entire team. The visiting committee's expense vouchers should be submitted to the ACS WASC Burlingame Office for reimbursement after the visit.

Visiting Committee Guidelines

The school should provide the following materials to the visiting committee:

1. The previous ACS WASC visiting committee report
2. The current schoolwide action plan
3. The school's mid-cycle progress report, to be received **no later than six weeks prior to the visit.**

The visiting committee reviews these materials and the school's follow-up process in response to the previous ACS WASC visiting committee report. The visiting committee will review progress made and significant developments at the school with the principal and/or Leadership Team. The visiting committee should emphasize the importance of noting the progress the school has made in student achievement using multiple means of assessment.

Visiting Committee Report

Immediately following the visit, the visiting committee will prepare its report detailing the areas of strength and critical areas for follow-up, with regard to progress made on the action plan.

The visiting committee report format is as follows:

I. Introduction

- General comments about the school, its setting, and the school's analysis of student achievement data.
- Include a description of any significant changes and/or developments, i.e., program additions since the last full visit, changes in student enrollment, staffing changes.
- Describe the impact these changes and/or developments have had on the school and/or specific curricular programs.

* Previsits are not part of the mid-cycle process.

- Briefly comment on the school's follow-up process. Include a description of the committee that has been responsible for overseeing the progress of the school's action plan and the preparation for the visit.
- Describe the process used to prepare the progress report.

II. Progress on Critical Areas for Follow-up/Schoolwide Action Plan

- Provide an analytical summary about the accomplishment of each schoolwide action plan section referencing the critical areas for follow-up addressed through each section.
- Note evidence supporting the progress made and the impact made on student achievement.
- If any critical areas for follow-up were not included in the school's action plan, indicate what actions have been taken to address these issue(s) and include supporting evidence
- ➔ Note: The school's schoolwide action plan should have incorporated all the critical areas of follow-up or major recommendations that were stated in the last self-study visiting committee report.

III. Commendations and Recommendations

A. Commendations:

- Comment on significant progress the school has made in responding to the critical areas for follow-up and in carrying out the related action plan.

B. Recommendations:

- Comment on any critical areas for follow-up/action plan sections that have not yet been completely addressed, if applicable.
- Identify any new areas of concerns, if applicable.

Visiting committee materials can be found on the Mid-cycle Two-day Visit page of the ACS WASC website at www.acswasc.org/vc/other-visits/mid-cycle-two-day/.

Confidential Summary Statement

The chairperson submits a confidential recommendation and summary statement to ACS WASC regarding the progress made on the schoolwide critical areas for follow-up (major recommendations). This statement should include whether additional visits or other conditions should be required of the school during the remainder of the current six-year accreditation cycle.

The committee will recommend one of the following options:

1. Reaffirm accreditation for the remainder of the six-year cycle, this indicates that the school has made sufficient progress and has the capacity to complete the remainder of the accreditation cycle in good standing
2. Reaffirm accreditation for the remainder of the six-year cycle and require a progress report due in one year (year four of the accreditation cycle)
3. Reaffirm accreditation for the remainder of the six-year cycle and require a progress report and special progress visit to take place in one year (year four of the accreditation cycle)
4. Accreditation status withheld.

Distribution of the Visiting Committee Materials

1. A copy of the visiting committee report should be sent to the school **no later than ten days** following the visit.
2. The visiting committee report and the confidential recommendation and summary statement should be sent to ACS WASC **no later than ten days following the visit** using the Document Upload link on the top navigation bar of the ACS WASC website: www.acswasc.org/document-upload/. The confidential recommendation and summary statement are **not** to be shared with the school.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Northern California Schools*

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*For ACS WASC purposes, Northern California is comprised of all counties north of and including San Luis Obispo, Kings, Tulare, and Inyo.