WASC Guidelines for Schools Hosting Virtual Mid-Cycle Visits Fall 2020
How well are all students learning and achieving?
Accreditation Cycle of Quality

1. Assess
2. Visit
3. Implement
4. Focus on Learning
5. Reassess
Let’s Have a Conversation....
What are the expectations for a school conducting a virtual mid-cycle visit?
Virtual Visit: School Expectations

• Process and Result as rigorous and thorough as an on-site visit

• Focus on continuous school improvement and the progress related to high quality learning and well-being for all students

• Video, audio and connectivity quality must be sufficient to allow good communication—both recorded and live
Where is the school now? Where’s it going? Does it have a good roadmap?
The Big Picture

Ultimate Goal:
A Quality Action Plan
owned by
All Stakeholders
Road to the Action Plan

- Schoolwide Learner Outcomes
- Data
- Critical Learner Needs
- Criteria Strengths
- Criteria Growth Areas

Action Plan
Preparing for the Visit

- Remembering
- Planning
- Technology
- Schedule
- Evidence
- Students
- Staff
- Hosting
Virtual Visit: School Expectations

• School **not** required to update written mid-cycle report

• However, school will be able to share what has been done since the report was completed with supporting information, including impact of online learning for the students and other issues related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

• Ensure the self-study and supporting evidence available prior to visit for visiting committee (VC).
Virtual Visit: School Expectations

• **WASC visit occurring**-Inform all stakeholders

• **Inform VC chair about parameters, i.e., any contractual requirements**

• **Student meetings include a staff member and two visiting committee members**
Virtual Mid-Cycle Visit:
Size of Visiting Committee

- Normal Guidelines for Size of the Visiting Committee but may be adjusted:
  - Enrollment 6-1499: 2 members
  - Enrollment 1500-2499: 3 members
  - Enrollment 2500 or more: 4 members
Virtual Visit: The Schedule

Required meetings and observations will still occur:

• Chair previsit work with school and visiting committee members

• Chair and school reference the suggested in-person schedule but will adapt based on school context, i.e., some meetings may occur prior to visit dates or be combined

• Important to know the names of all meeting attendees
Virtual Visit: The Schedule

WASC Mid-Cycle Visit Expectations

• Meeting between the principal/school leader and VC chair

• Meeting between the Leadership Team and the Visiting Committee

• Meetings with all committees —all members (may have to be two meetings)

• Separate meetings with students, parents, teachers, counselors, support staff and other meetings as needed
Virtual Visit: The VC Report

• Visiting Committee Chair shares final list of Schoolwide Strengths and Growth Areas for Continuous Improvement (Critical Areas for Follow-up) with school leadership

• Visiting Committee Chair sends final report within 10 working days of visit to school
Virtual Visit: Important Technological Requirements

The school will need to ensure the following technological capabilities:

• online conferencing facilities to allow small groups to participate in meetings (e.g., Zoom, Google Meetings, WebEx, Microsoft Teams, Skype or similar); individual stations (laptops) tend to work better than large groups in a room;

• reliable Internet access to support the above;

• video recording, camera. Tablet/iPAD/SMARTphone devices for recording devices to record video and images of the school prior to the virtual team evaluation visit; and
Virtual Visit:  
Important Technological Requirements (cont.)

The school will need to ensure the following technological capabilities:

• video recording devices and the wireless support necessary to stream live video of the school in action if it is in session during the virtual team evaluation visit or the ability to observe virtual classes in session.

**NOTE:** The visiting committee chair/members will conduct a test of the technological requirements with the school before the virtual evaluation visit.
Virtual Visit: Observations of School in Action during the Accreditation Visit

• School provide Master Schedule (virtual and/or on-site)

• School and VC chair establish a schedule for VC member to observe live teaching and learning—ensuring a quality stratified sample

• VC chair and school select a stratified group of classes based on grade levels, school programs, subject areas, types of course, student groups and other important issues (Suggested time frame is 15-20 minutes but can vary with type of class and school)

• School and VC chair work together on best platform and video device and how it is positioned
We Are Student Centered
Thank You

Need assistance? Have a question? Need clarification?

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