



ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACS WASC Accreditation Process Evaluation Study *Press Release*

Burlingame, CA, September 2, 2016 — During the past year the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) engaged researchers from Desertfrost Consulting Group, Inc., to gather information about the accreditation process. The study consisted of a survey of 2,100 public high school principals in California and interviews of randomly selected public high school principals.

The succinct “big picture” initial findings are that ACS WASC:

- Has a strong accreditation model that is widely respected
- Fosters conditions for student learning and improvement through data analysis, reflection, and discussion
- Provides a process for regularly examining programs, processes, and data around school goals
- Builds a professional culture to support the schoolwide action plan
- Validates schools’ efforts for improvement.

The study also emphasized important opportunities for ACS WASC in the following areas:

- Providing increased support to schools in the self-study and follow-up processes, e.g., monitoring and using assessment evidence to change practices and refine school goals and implementing the cycle of inquiry beyond planning and implementation phases
- Working with districts and school boards on the understanding of accreditation as an ongoing school improvement process
- Ensuring the ACS WASC process facilitates alignment of the SPSA and LCAP
- Facilitating greater parent and community involvement in the school’s improvement efforts
- Moving forward with strengthening the visiting committee process.

The full report will be released at the end of September.

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) is a world-renowned accrediting association and one of the six regional accrediting agencies in the United States. ACS WASC extends its services worldwide to approximately 5,000 public, private, independent, church-related, and proprietary pre-K–12 schools, especially to schools in California, Hawaii, Asia, and the Pacific Islands.

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For additional information about this topic, please visit the ACS WASC website at www.acswasc.org or contact the ACS WASC office directly.

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