

ACS WASC Accreditation Status Explanation



Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges

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Accreditation Status Recommendation

NOT FOR OFFICIAL USE

CONTACT THE ACS WASC OFFICE FOR PREPRINTED FORM

Name of School Visited:
Address of School:
Name of District:
Manual:
Visit:
Date of Visit:

ACS WASC accreditation is an ongoing six-year cycle of quality whereby the school demonstrates the capacity, commitment, and competence to support high-quality student learning and ongoing school improvement.

The Visiting Committee's CONFIDENTIAL recommendation to the Accrediting Commission:

Six-Year Accreditation Status with a Mid-cycle Progress Report: There is compelling evidence that the school needs little, if any, additional support for high-quality student learning and the implementation, monitoring, and accomplishment of the schoolwide action plan, which includes the identified critical areas for follow-up.

Provide the rationale for the accreditation status recommendation in the Justification Statement.

Six-Year Accreditation Status with a Mid-cycle Progress Report and (choose one option below):

One-Day Visit: There is compelling evidence that the school needs additional support in strengthening student achievement by addressing the identified critical areas for follow-up. Based on the scope and seriousness of the issues and the size of the school, a one-day visit is recommended.

Two-Day Visit: There is compelling evidence that the school needs additional support in strengthening student achievement by addressing the identified critical areas for follow-up. Based on the scope and seriousness of the issues and the size of the school, a two-day visit is recommended.

Provide the rationale for the accreditation status recommendation in the Justification Statement.

Probationary Accreditation Status with an In-depth Progress Report and Two-Day Visit (choose one option below):

One-Year: There is compelling evidence that the school deviates significantly from the ACS WASC criteria in one or more critical areas requiring immediate attention and support.

Two-Year: There is compelling evidence that the school deviates significantly from the ACS WASC criteria in one or more critical areas that need to be addressed within two years.

Provide the rationale for the accreditation status recommendation in the Justification Statement.

Accreditation Status Withheld: There is compelling evidence that the school does not meet one or more of the ACS WASC criteria and deviates significantly in critical areas that impact student learning and well-being, the school's program, and supporting operations.

Provide the rationale for the accreditation status recommendation in the Justification Statement.

Note: The Commission reserves the right to grant accreditation status other than those above, including a recommendation for a full self-study at any time. Such action will follow a Commission review of the Visiting Committee Report. In the event of a formal appeal, this document will be provided to the school's chief administrator.

VISITING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Type or print name

Signature

Committee Chairperson

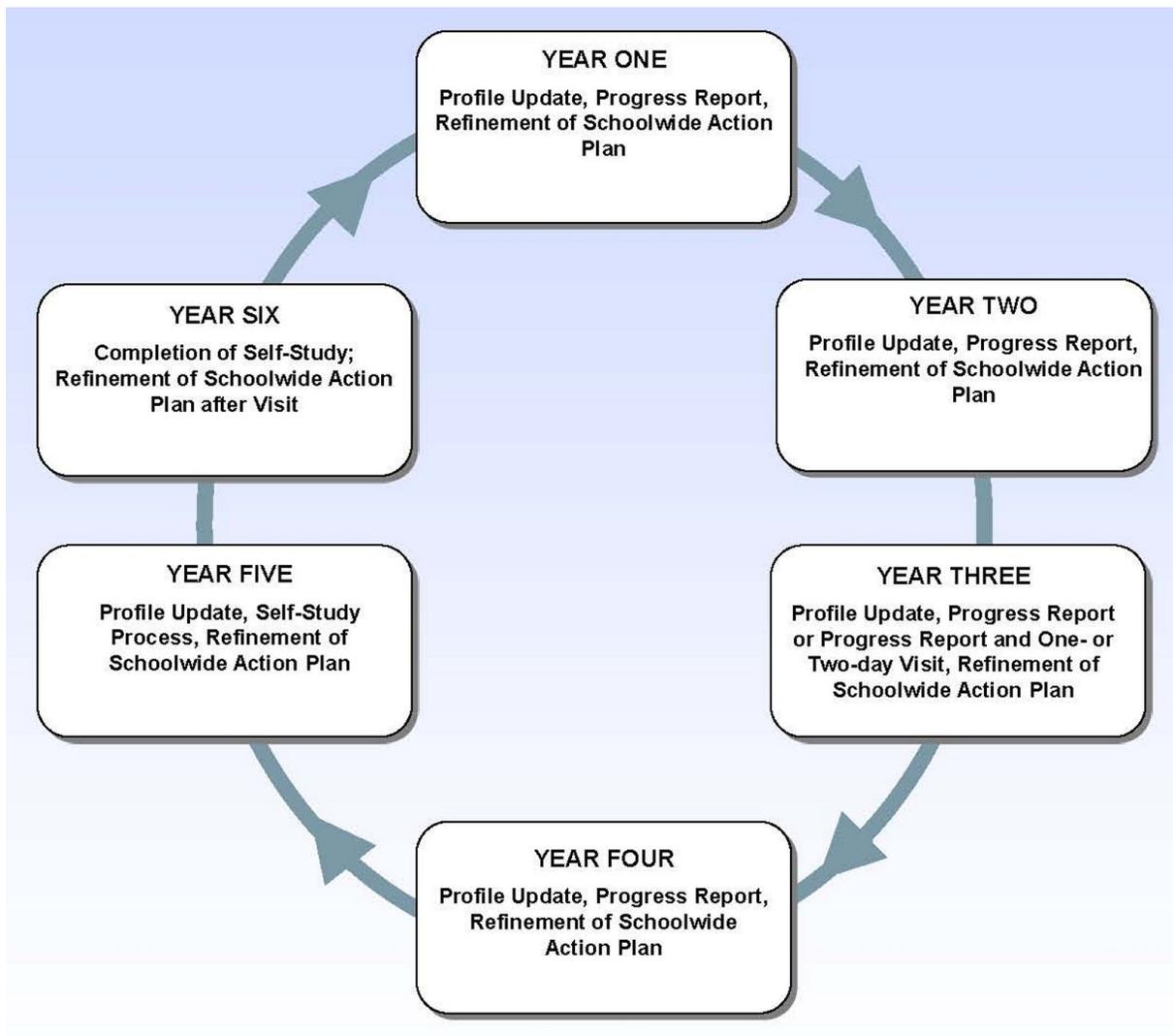
Date

ACS WASC Accreditation Cycle of Quality: A Focus on Learning

ACS WASC accreditation is an ongoing six-year cycle of quality whereby the school demonstrates the capacity, commitment, and competence to support high-quality student learning and ongoing school improvement. The school assesses its program and its impact on student learning with respect to the ACS WASC criteria/indicators and other accreditation factors. Schools are expected to participate in self-study training provided by ACS WASC throughout the 18 months prior to the full self-study visit. This self-study process culminates in the refinement of a 3–5 year schoolwide action plan. Throughout the cycle, a school is expected to address the schoolwide action plan and demonstrate evidence of acceptable student achievement and school improvement.

Using the ACS WASC criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors, the visiting committee will base its accreditation status recommendation on evidence contained in the self-study and encountered during the school visit indicating:

- The degree to which high achievement by all students is occurring
- The capacity of the school to implement, monitor, and accomplish the schoolwide action plan aligned to the areas of greatest need impacting student achievement
- The school's position with respect to institutional and/or governing authority expectations.



Accreditation Status Explanation*

Overall Question: What accreditation status option best supports defined high-quality learning for all students and the school's improvement needs?

Six-Year Accreditation Status with a Mid-cycle Progress Report

Based on the *ACS WASC policies, criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors/rubrics*, this option is appropriate if there is compelling evidence that the school needs little, if any, additional support for high-quality student learning and the implementation, monitoring, and accomplishment of the schoolwide action plan, including addressing the identified critical areas for follow-up. The school is expected annually to report progress to its governing body and stakeholders, update the student/community profile, and refine its schoolwide action plan as needed.

The school will be required to submit a comprehensive mid-cycle progress report demonstrating that the school has:

- Addressed the critical areas for follow-up through the schoolwide action plan
- Made appropriate progress on the implementation of the schoolwide action plan
- Improved student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner outcomes and the academic standards.

ACS WASC will review the mid-cycle progress report to affirm the accreditation status and determine whether any additional reports, visits, or other conditions will be required.

Six-Year Accreditation Status with a Mid-cycle Progress Report and One-Day Visit

Based on the *ACS WASC policies, criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors/rubrics*, this option is appropriate if there is compelling evidence that the school needs additional support in strengthening student achievement and the school's program through the schoolwide action plan, including addressing the identified critical areas for follow-up. A one-day visit is recommended, based on the scope and seriousness of the issues and the size of the school. The school is expected to report annual progress to its governing body and stakeholders, update the student/community profile, and refine its schoolwide action plan as needed.

The school will be required to host a one-day visit after submitting a comprehensive mid-cycle progress report demonstrating that the school has:

- Addressed the critical areas for follow-up throughout the schoolwide action plan
- Made appropriate progress on the implementation of the schoolwide action plan
- Improved student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner outcomes and the academic standards.

ACS WASC will review the progress report and the results of the visit to affirm the accreditation status and determine whether any additional reports, visits, or other conditions will be required.

Six-Year Accreditation Status with a Mid-cycle Progress Report and Two-Day Visit

Based on the *ACS WASC policies, criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors/rubrics*, this option is appropriate if there is compelling evidence that there needs to be more time spent at the mid-cycle in reviewing the schoolwide action plan progress in areas such as the analysis and use of student achievement data, the instructional program, the growth and development of the leadership and staff, governance, and resource allocation. A two-day visit is recommended, based on the scope and seriousness of the issues and the

* No changes have been made to the ACS WASC initial visit process.

size of the school. The school is expected to report annual progress to its governing body and stakeholders, update the student/community profile, and refine its schoolwide action plan as needed.

The school will be required to host a two-day visit and submit a comprehensive mid-cycle progress report demonstrating that the school has:

- Addressed the critical areas for follow-up through the schoolwide action plan
- Made appropriate progress on implementation of the schoolwide action plan
- Improved student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner outcomes and the academic standards.

ACS WASC will review the progress report and the results of the visit to affirm the accreditation status and determine whether any additional reports, visits, or other conditions will be required.

One- or Two-Year Probationary Accreditation Status with an In-depth Progress Report and Two-Day Visit

Based on the *ACS WASC policies, criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors/rubrics*, this option is appropriate if there is compelling evidence that the school deviates significantly from the ACS WASC criteria in one or more critical areas and needs serious additional support, feedback, and encouragement in meeting the identified critical areas for follow-up in the visiting committee report. A one-year probationary status indicates there is a need for immediate attention and support. A two-year probationary status signifies the need for prompt attention and support, but more time may be needed to address the identified issue(s).

The school will be required to host a two-day visit in one or two years and submit an in-depth progress report demonstrating that the school has:

- Addressed the critical areas for follow-up in the schoolwide action plan
- Made appropriate progress on the implementation of the schoolwide action plan
- Improved student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner outcomes and the academic standards.

After the probationary visit, the ACS WASC Commission may grant one of the following:

- Continued probationary accreditation for one additional year of the accreditation cycle
 - Probation removed and full accreditation status restored; the accreditation cycle continues with an in-depth progress report and two-day mid-cycle visit[†]
 - Accreditation withheld.
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Accreditation Status Withheld

Schools that have had their accreditation status withheld (which has become final on appeal or where the school chooses not to appeal) have the option to seek reinstatement and request a Reinstatement Visit. In order to be reinstated, the school must submit a reinstatement report that addresses the identified critical areas for follow-up and provide sufficient evidence of the progress made. ACS WASC will then decide upon an appropriate time for a two-day Reinstatement Visit. The visit must occur within **18 months** from the date of the Commission's decision to withhold accreditation or the school will need to reapply for accreditation through the Initial Visit process.

[†] Depending on where the school is in the accreditation cycle, a special visit may be required.

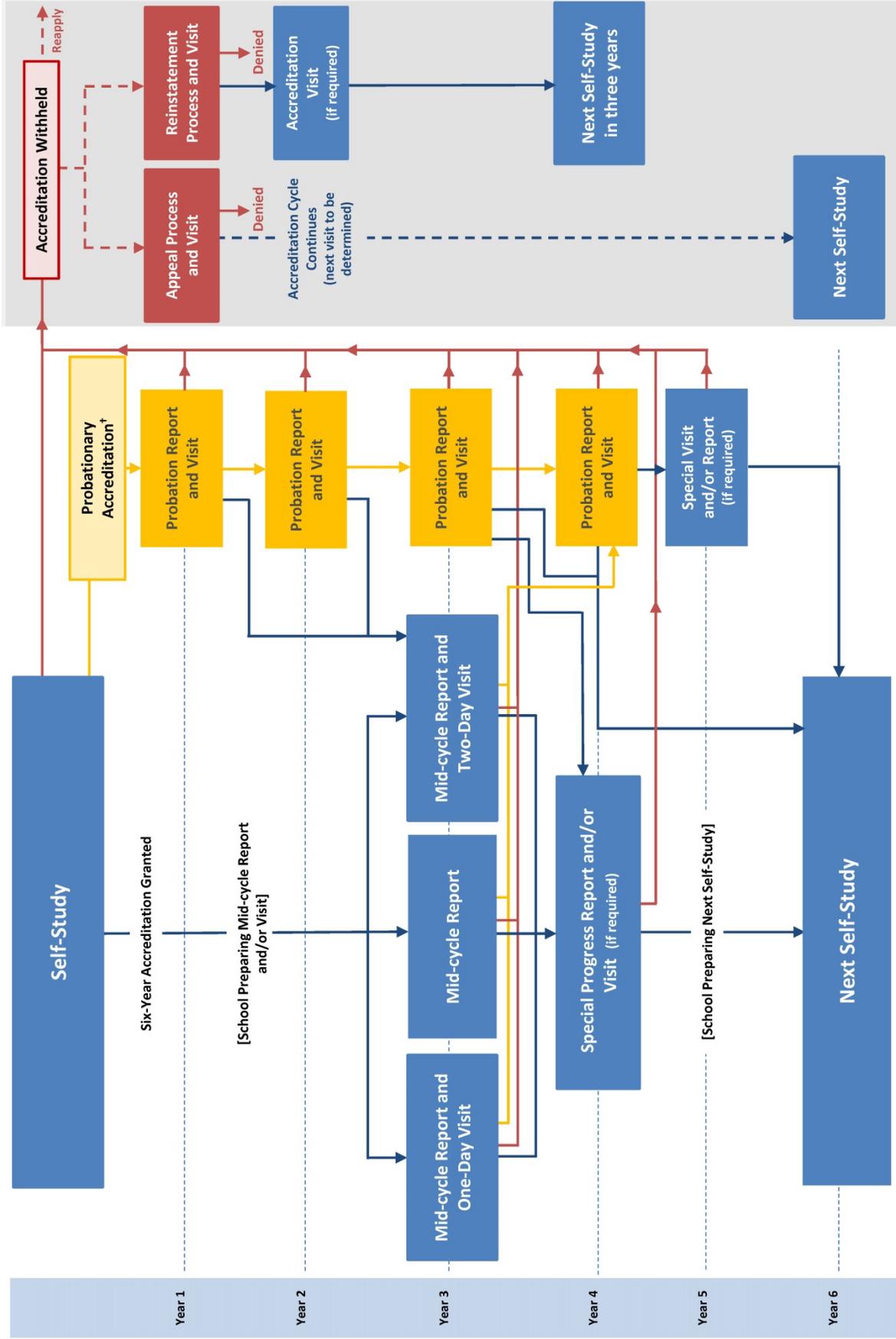
After the Reinstatement Visit, the Commission may grant one of the following options:

- If a school satisfactorily addresses the critical areas for follow-up and updates the self-study, if applicable, or otherwise provides sufficient evidence of the progress made, accreditation status may be granted with annual in-depth progress reports and a full self-study within three years of reinstatement. The accreditation status will be effective as of the July 1 that precedes the Commission's decision on reinstatement.
- If a school marginally addresses the critical areas for follow-up and updates the self-study, if applicable, or otherwise provides sufficient evidence of the progress made, accreditation status may be granted with an in-depth progress report and a two-day visit in one year and a full self-study within three years of reinstatement. The accreditation status will be effective as of the July 1 that precedes the Commission's decision on reinstatement.
- If a school has not satisfactorily addressed the critical areas for follow-up or updated the self-study, if applicable, or otherwise fails to provide sufficient evidence of the progress made, accreditation status may continue to be withheld. Schools with accreditation status withheld must reapply if they desire accreditation.

The Commission's decision concerning reinstatement is final and may not be appealed.

NOTE: The Commission reserves the right to grant accreditation status other than those above, including a recommendation for a full self-study at any time. Such action will follow a Commission review of the visiting committee report. In the event of a formal appeal, this document will be provided to the school's chief administrator.

ACS WASC Accreditation Status Timeline*



*A special visit and/or report may be required at any time in the accreditation cycle.
 †Probationary accreditation status may be appealed.