

ACS WASC

Focus on Learning

On Target for 21st Century Schools

www.acswasc.org





ACS WASC Accreditation



Focus on Learning (FOL)
Accreditation's Cycle of Quality



Getting Started through
Initial Accreditation

Accrediting Commission for Schools, WASC

- Private, nonprofit, regional accrediting association in the United States serving schools in California, Hawaii, Pacific Islands, and worldwide, especially East Asia (Hague, 1961)
- Extends services to 5,000 pre-K to 12 elementary and secondary public and private schools of various types (370 worldwide)
- Works closely with the U.S. Department of State, Office of Overseas Schools
- Works with 18 associations in joint processes, such as California and Hawaii state departments of education, Chinese and Thailand Ministries, Council of International Schools (CIS), and IB
- ACS WASC Commission (Board) composed of 32 members from representative organizations

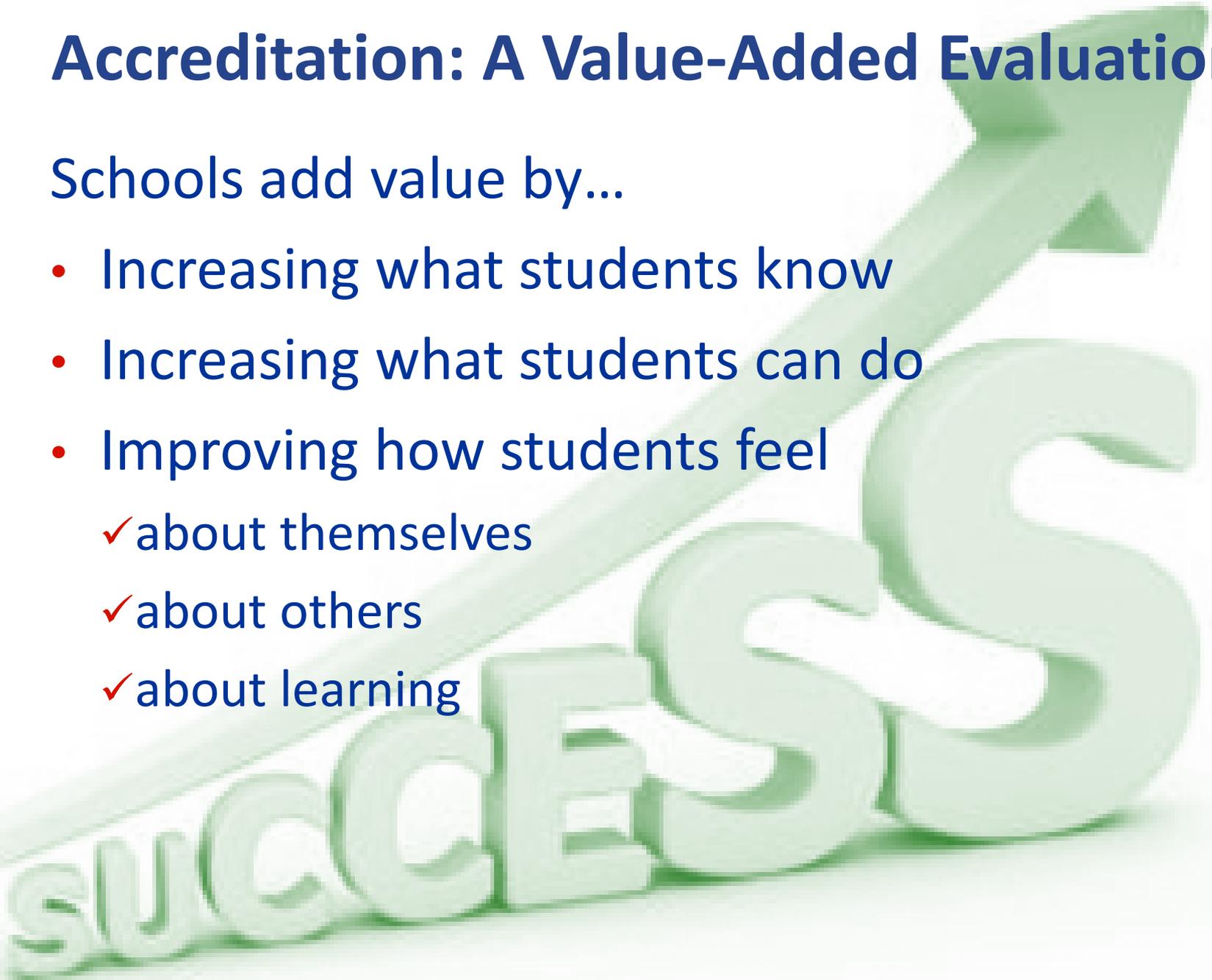
ACS WASC Accreditation: An Ongoing Journey



Accreditation: A Value-Added Evaluation

Schools add value by...

- Increasing what students know
- Increasing what students can do
- Improving how students feel
 - ✓ about themselves
 - ✓ about others
 - ✓ about learning





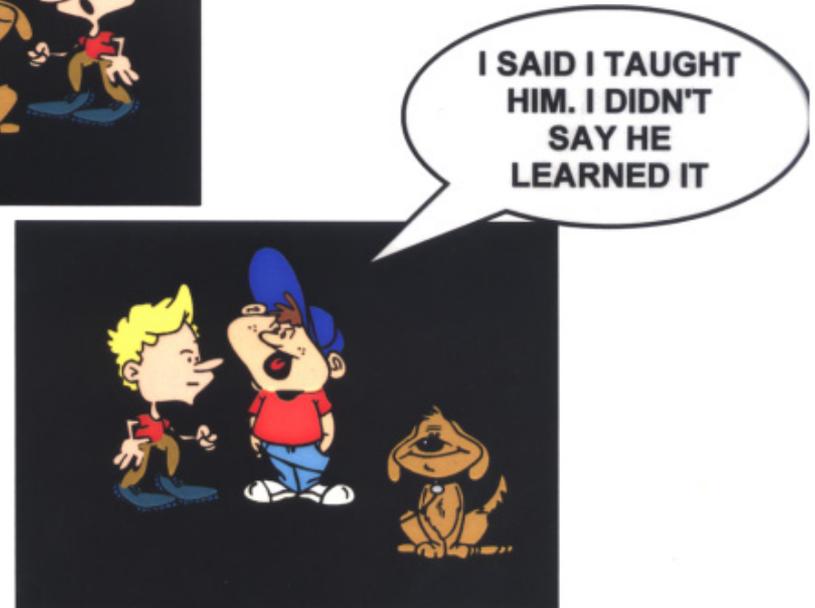
Accreditation

- Accreditation: The quality or state of being trustworthy or credible (Root is French word meaning “to credit”)
- An ongoing Cycle of Quality...
a “non-hyperventilating” school improvement process that supports high-quality student learning
- Equivalent to a University Educational Course entitled: Change 101



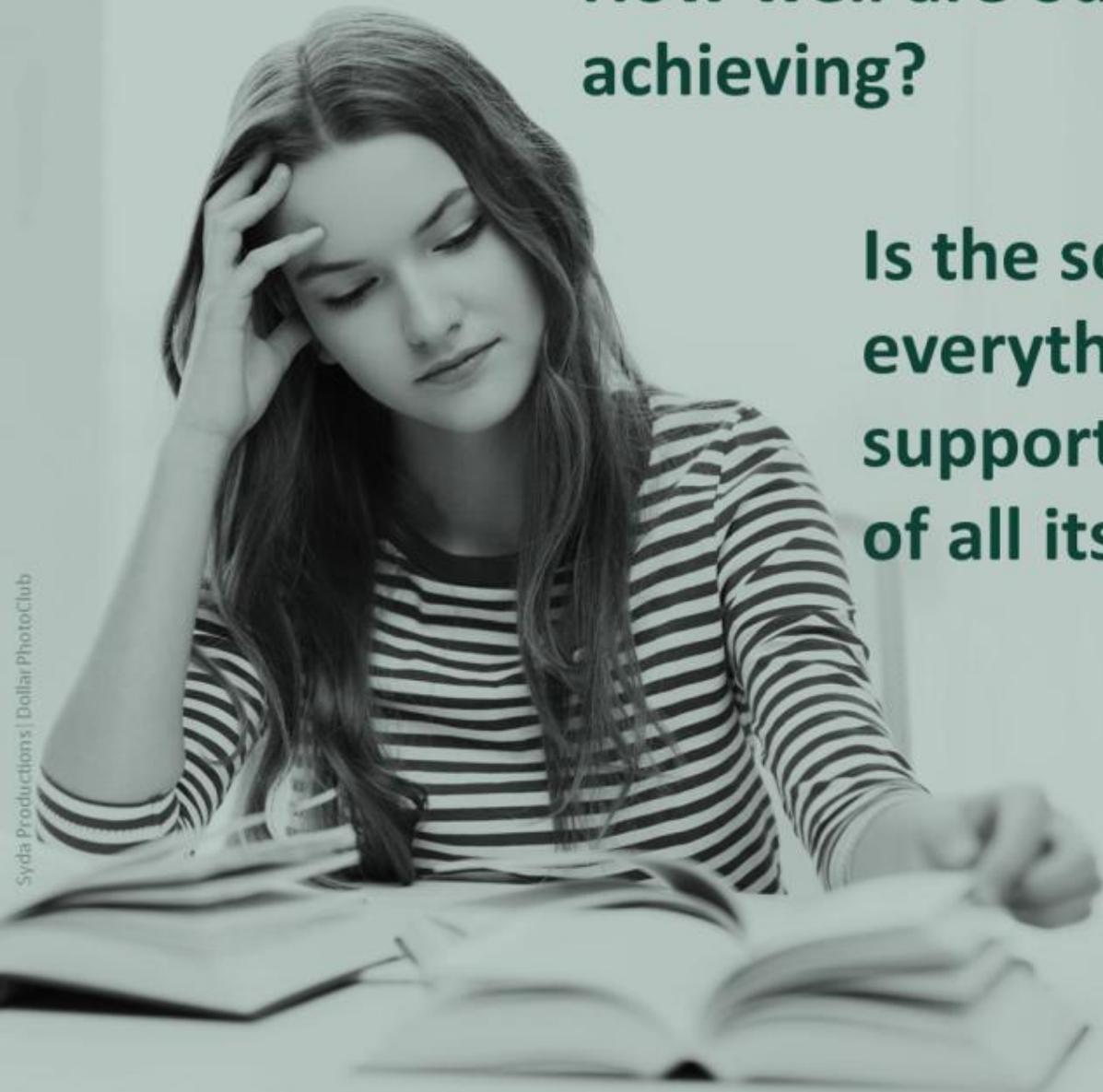
Why Accreditation?

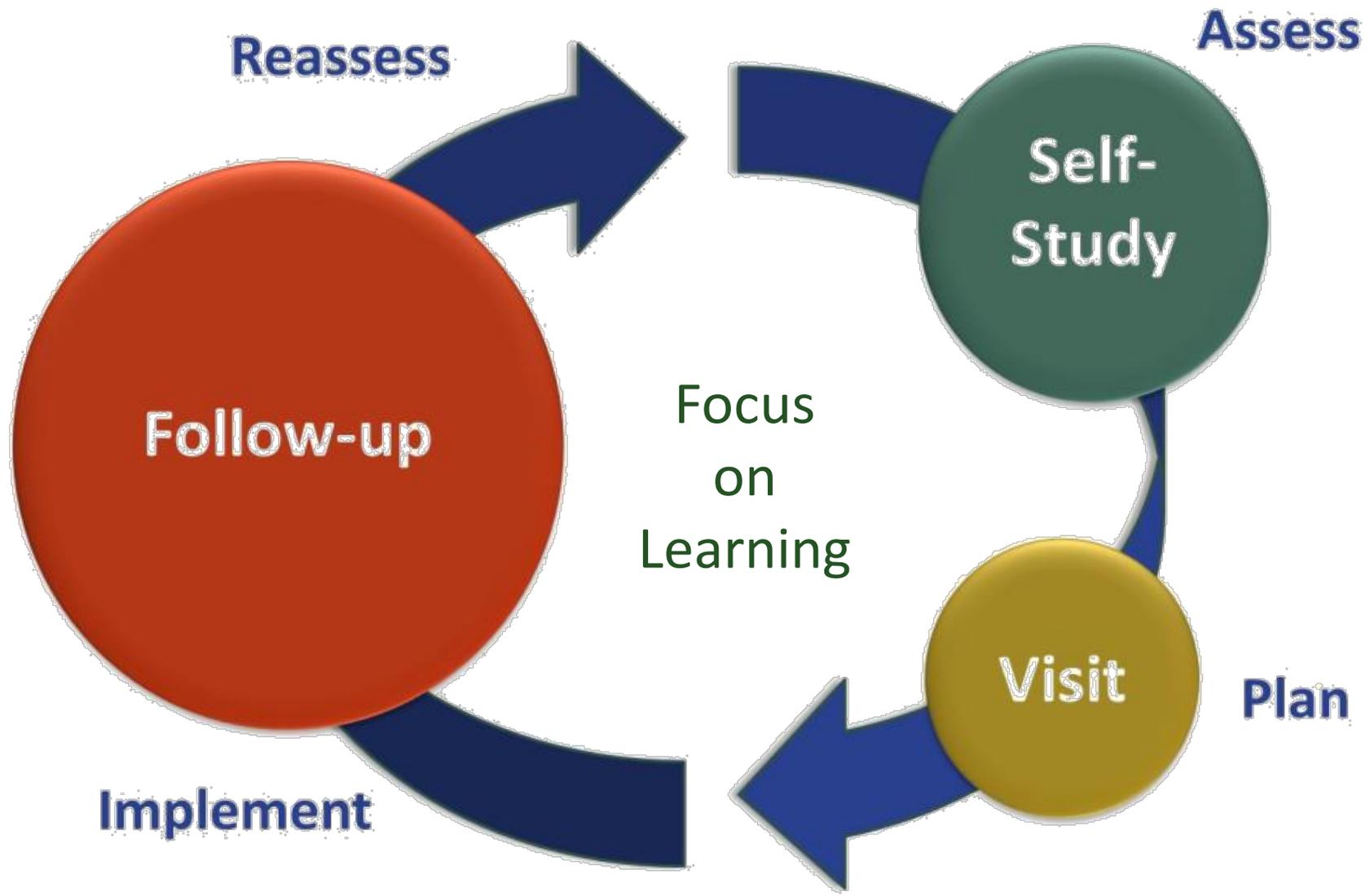
- Assures a school community school is trustworthy for student learning in a global society
- Validates integrity of school's program and transcripts worldwide for university acceptance
- Fosters ongoing improvement to support learning
- Provides valuable insight from educators visiting the school
- Benefits schools choosing collaborative processes, e.g., ACS WASC/IB, CIS/ACS WASC, ACS WASC/ACSI, ACS WASC/NCCT



**How well are our students
achieving?**

**Is the school doing
everything possible to
support high achievement
of all its students?**





Accreditation Cycle of Quality



ACS WASC Focus on Learning Accreditation

ACS WASC Guiding Principles





ACS WASC Guiding Accreditation Principles

The guiding principles enable a school to demonstrate:

- Accomplishment of its vision, mission, and schoolwide learner outcomes.





Are our Schoolwide Learner Outcomes meeting the criteria listed below?

Global
Interdisciplinary
All students
Assessable





Sample Schoolwide Learner Outcome

Students will be:

INNOVATIVE THINKERS

- **Build on the ideas, explanations, and reasons of others**
- **Summarize, analyze, interpret, and evaluate information**
- **Define problem and use problem-solving strategies appropriate to the context**
- **Create original work**
- **Use technology to create products of high quality.**



Sample Schoolwide Learner Outcome

College, Career, and Life Skill Oriented Students who:

- Take initiative and work independently
- Follow through with plans and goals
- Handle praise, feedback, and criticism well
- Are organized
- Are productive and accountable
- Are self-directed and don't give up.



ACS WASC Guiding Principles

The guiding principles enable a school to demonstrate:

- High achievement of all students in relation to district goals (if applicable), schoolwide learner outcomes and academic standards.

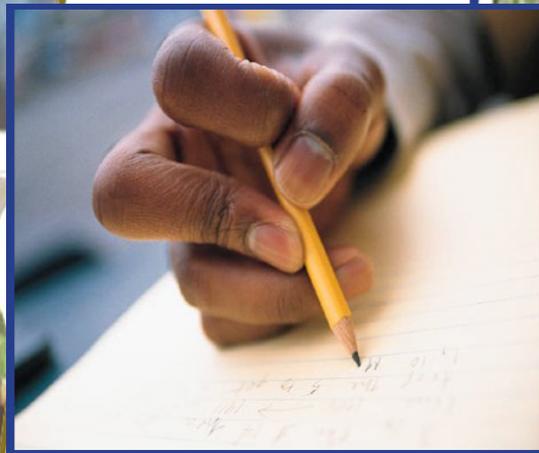
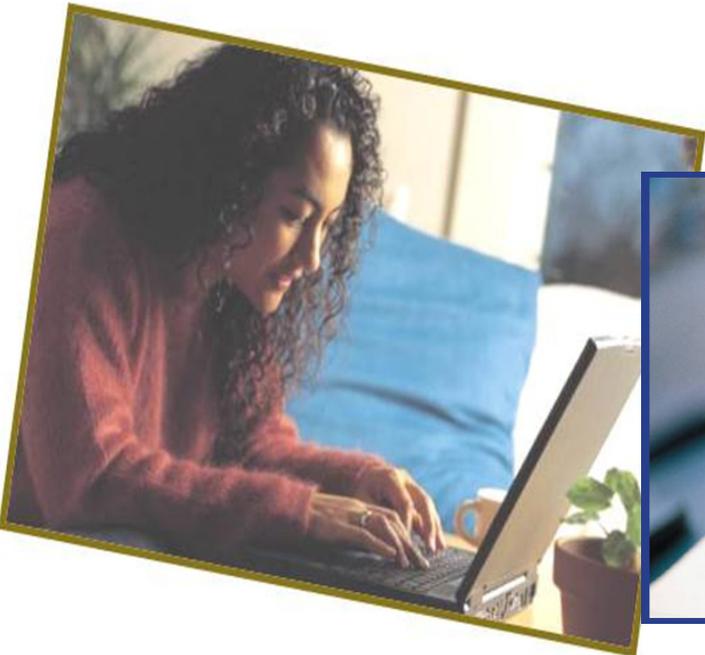




ACS WASC Guiding Principles

The guiding principles enable a school to demonstrate:

- Use multiple ways to analyze data to demonstrate student achievement, including student and staff perceptions/interviews, examining student work, and observing students engaged in learning.





ACS WASC Guiding Principles

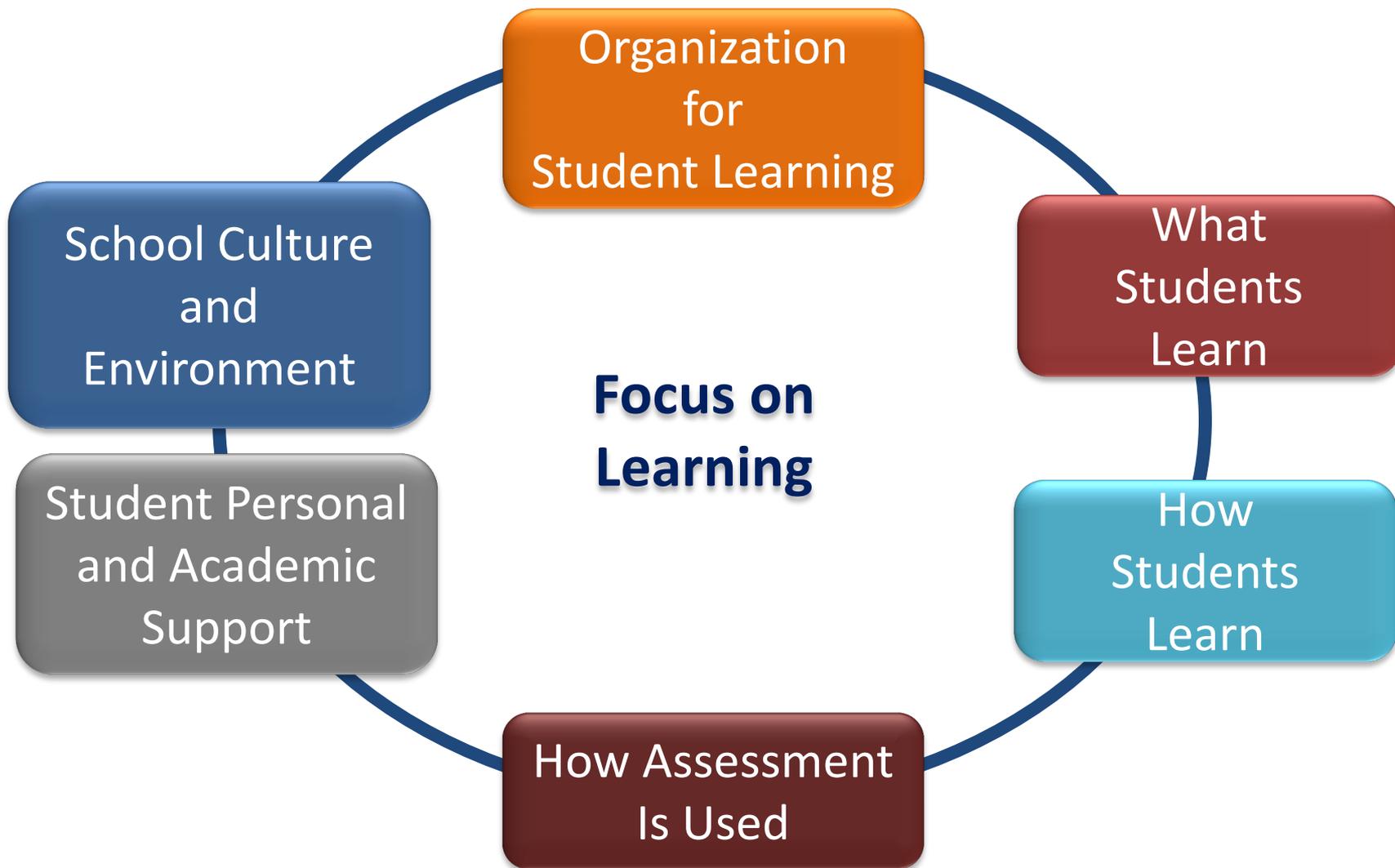
The guiding principles enable a school to demonstrate:

- Evaluation of the program effectiveness in relation to 1) impact on student learning based on schoolwide learner outcomes, major student learner needs, and academic standards; and 2) meeting an acceptable level of quality in accordance with the ACS WASC criteria.





ACS WASC Criteria Categories





ACS WASC Guiding Principles

The guiding principles enable a school to demonstrate:

- Alignment of findings to a schoolwide action plan

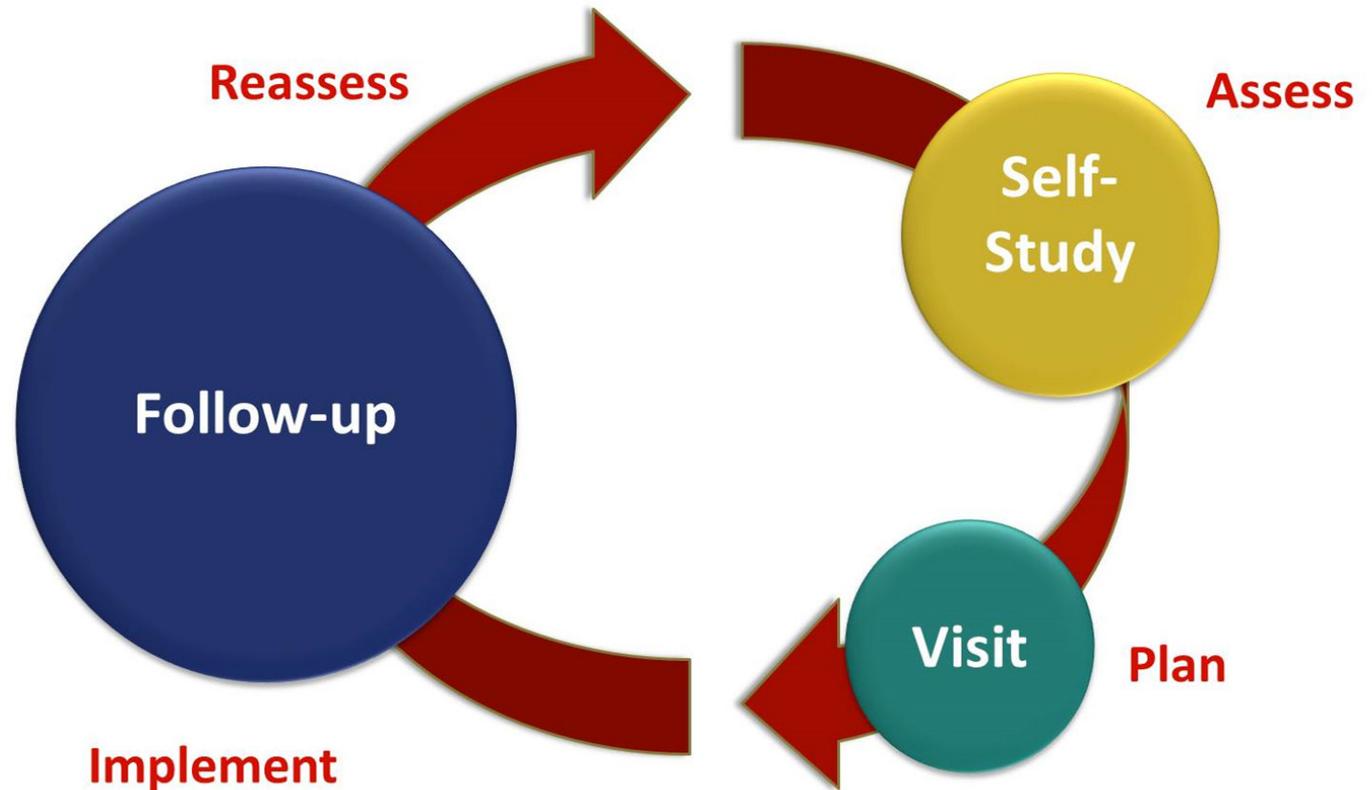




ACS WASC Guiding Principles

The guiding principles enable a school to demonstrate:

- Ongoing improvement/accountability.





ACS WASC Guiding Principles

The guiding principles enable a school to demonstrate:

- Total involvement and collaboration of all stakeholders.



- A culture that nurtures and supports the well-being of all students.



Initial Visits

A one or two-day visit by a two-member team to understand the school...

- the vision, mission, schoolwide learner outcomes
- the program and operations based upon the ACS WASC criteria and indicators
 - ✓ Dialogue with all stakeholders
 - ✓ Observation of students involved in the program
 - ✓ Review of documentation
 - ✓ Initial visiting committee report with recommendations

Initial Visit Results



CreativeCommons | healthsciencetechnology.wikispaces.com

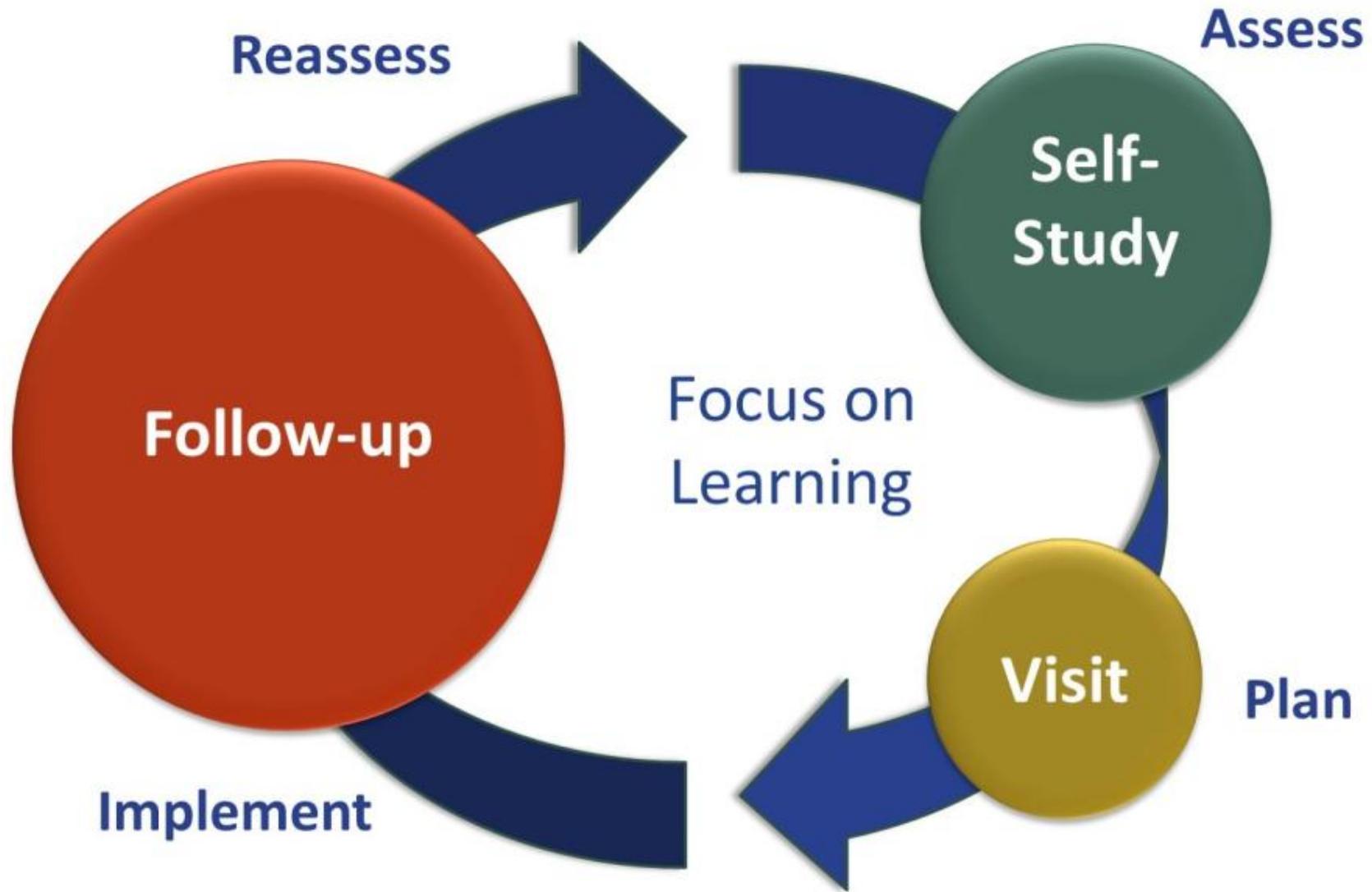
ACS WASC Commission
action on candidacy or
initial accreditation



School staff address initial
visit recommendations

School staff begins and completes self-
study/full visit within 2-3 years of candidacy





Accreditation Cycle of Quality

Self-Study: Putting Together a Puzzle





Summary: Self-Study Process

What? *What is the ideal based upon...?*

*Vision, Mission, Schoolwide Learner Outcomes;
ACS WASC criteria and indicators; academic
standards*

So What?

*What currently exists?
How effective is it?*

Now What?

*What and how will we modify?
What should be in the Schoolwide Action Plan?*



Profile
Team



Leadership
Team



Home Groups

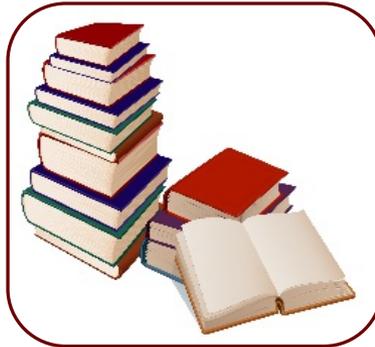
Focus Groups



ACS WASC Criteria Categories



Organization



Curriculum



Instruction



Assessment



Student
Support



Resources

Sample ACS WASC Criterion: Curriculum

What Students Learn

To what extent does the school have a challenging, coherent curriculum that...fulfills the school's purpose and results in achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes?



Note: Excerpt

Sample ACS WASC Criterion: Staff

To what extent...

Are school leadership and teachers engaged in ongoing professional development that promotes student learning in a global society?

Sample Indicator:

There are effective operating processes that determine the measurable effect of professional development, coaching, and mentoring on student learning.

Prompt: Comment on the effectiveness of the processes....

Findings

Supporting Evidence

Note: Excerpt



Sample ACS WASC Criterion: Assessment

To what extent...

do teachers and students use assessment results to modify the ongoing learning and teaching process?

Note: Excerpt

Data/Evidence for Self-Study



Demographic



Outcome



Process/Perceptions

Types of Data



Demographic

Ethnicity

English proficiency

Enrollment

Mobility

Gender/age

Types of Data



Outcomes

College SAT

Advanced Placement

MAPS

Smarter Balanced Results

TOEFL

Post Graduation Data (University entrance)

Types of Data



Process/Perceptions

Student work

Student interviews and observations

Other interviews, discussions, surveys

Student/community profile, other numeric data, and documentation

Student Work

Typical work, such as writing or solving math problems

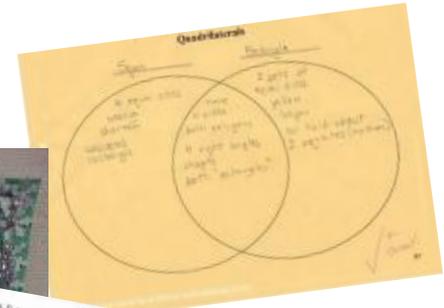
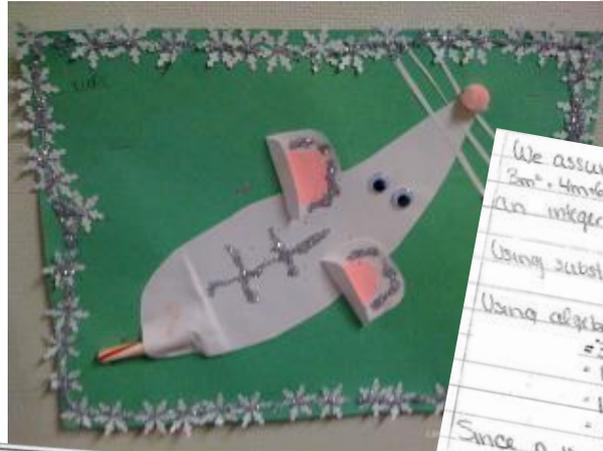
Research paper

Projects, such as senior project

Same performance tasks or assignments

Portfolios

Case studies

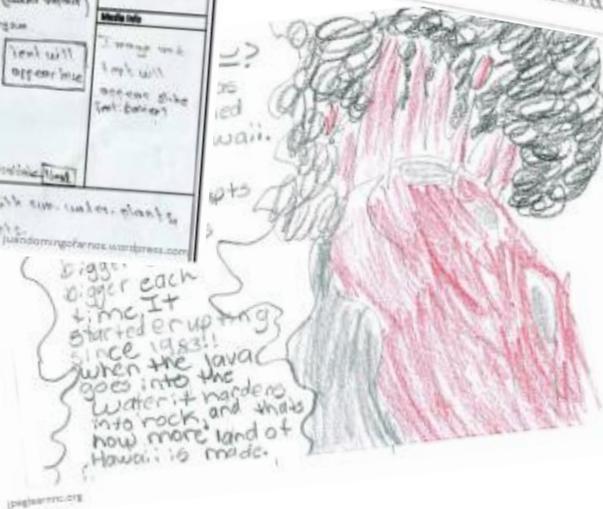
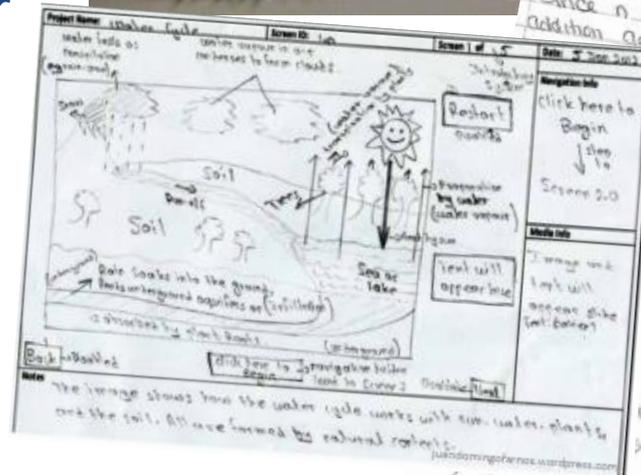


We assume that m is an odd integer and will prove that $2m^2 + 4m + 6$ is an odd integer. Since m is odd, there exists an integer n such that $m = 2n + 1$.

Using substitution, we obtain $3(2n+1)^2 + 4(2n+1) + 6$.

Using algebra, we show that $= 3(4n^2 + 4n + 1) + 8n + 4 + 6$
 $= 12n^2 + 12n + 3 + 8n + 10$
 $= 12n^2 + 20n + 13$
 $= 2(6n^2 + 10n + 6) + 1$.

Since n is an integer, and integers are closed under multiplication, we know that $6n^2 + 10n + 6$ is an integer. This implies that this integer q such that $2q + 1 = 6$. Consequently, we have proven that $2m^2 + 4m + 6$ is odd.



Observations and Interviews: Strategies

Data in a Day

Walk-Throughs

Roving Teacher Substitutes

Individual or Group Student Interviews

Student Surveys



Self-Study Findings

Process



Professional knowledge

Data

Observations

Surveys/interviews

Student work

Documents

Product

Analytical response to criteria

Evidence

Strengths

Key areas for follow-up

So What?

What currently exists?
How effective are we?

Vision and Mission

Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

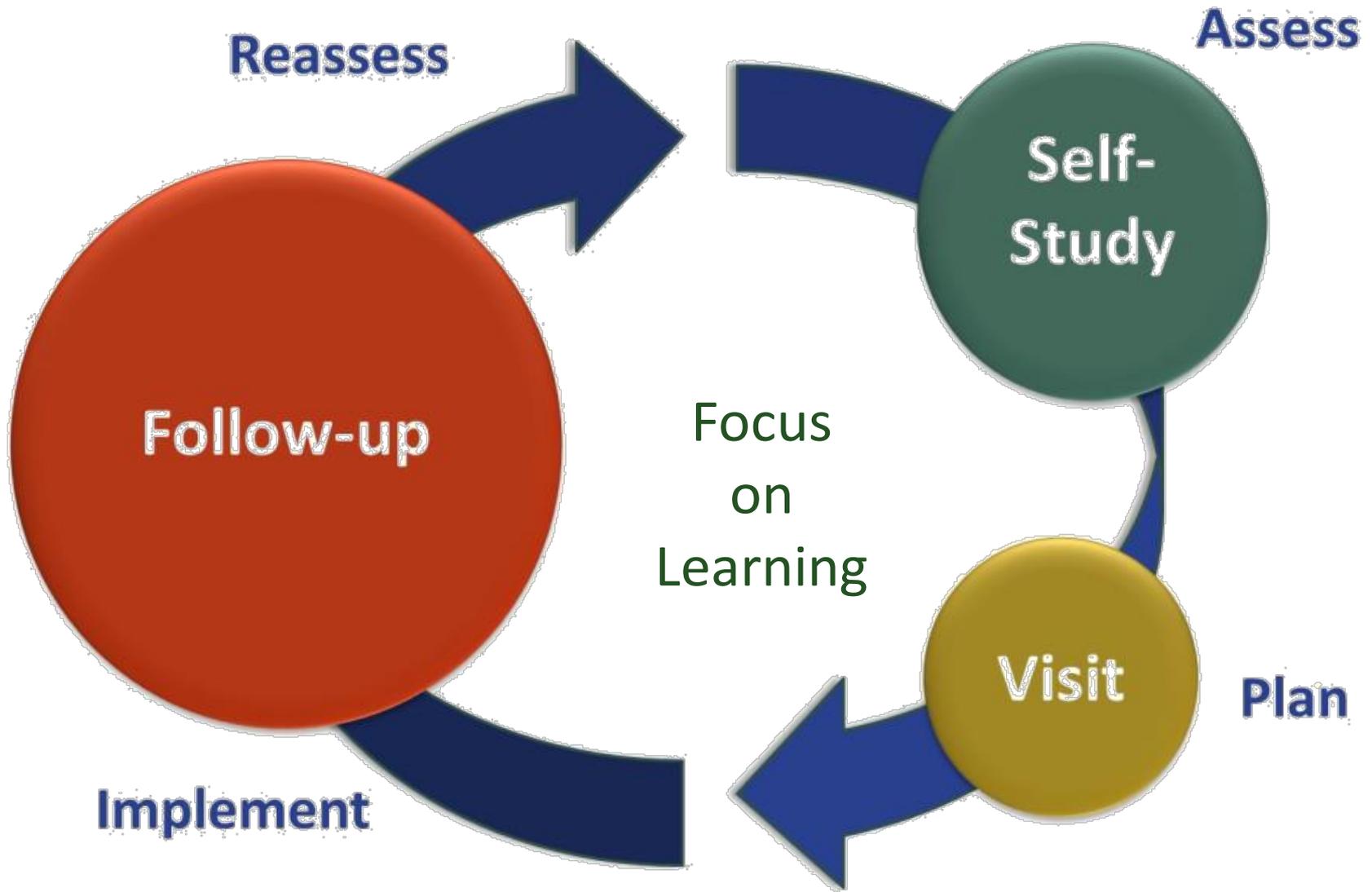


Schoolwide Action Plan



Through implementing the plan,
what will be different for
students as global citizens?

- One year from now?
- Two years from now?
- Three years from now?



Accreditation Cycle of Quality

A group of five business professionals (three men and two women) are seated around a conference table, looking at documents and talking. The man in the center is wearing a light blue shirt and a watch. The woman next to him is wearing a black blazer and a pearl necklace. There are glasses of water and papers on the table.

Members
strengthen
school's core
work —
improving
student learning



**Where is the school now?
Where's it going?
Does it have a good roadmap?**

Visit's Purpose

Provide insight about student learning and school program

Validate school program

Celebrate school strengths

Provide recommendations on growth areas

Note: team size is based on school enrollment.



Visit's Purpose

Prepares a written report for the school and Commission
Recommends an accreditation status
Commission takes action

Five or six years with a mid-cycle visit

Five or six years with conditions and a mid-cycle

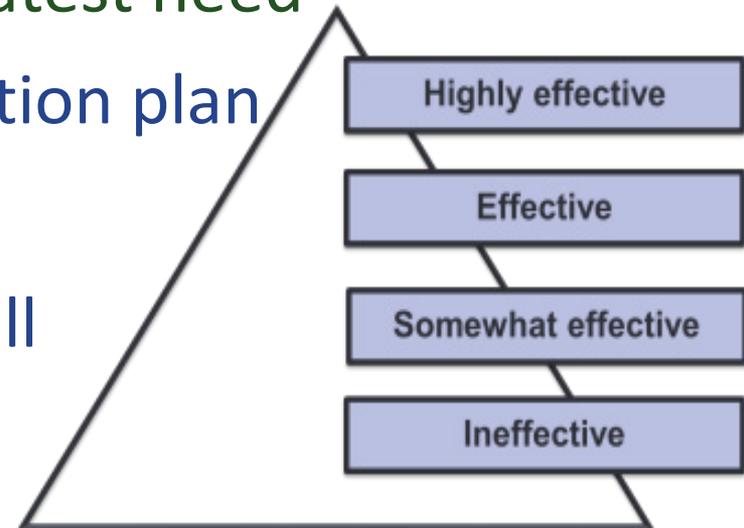
Probation

Withheld



Accreditation Status factors

- Meeting the ACS WASC international criteria and indicators
- Clear globally minded purpose and schoolwide learner outcomes
- Quality processes to analyze student achievement
- Action plan aligned to areas of greatest need
- Capacity to implement/monitor action plan
- Use of prior accreditation findings
- Involvement and collaboration of all



Follow-up at the school

Revise schoolwide action plan to include recommendations from Visiting Committee and submit to ACS WASC

Annually review progress and revise plan as needed

Submit annual reports to ACS WASC

Host periodic visits from ACS WASC

A powerful change process



**Global
competencies**



ACS

W **We**

A **Are**

S **Student**

C **Centered**