

ACS WASC SCHOOLWIDE CRITERIA

Focus on Learning

A. ORGANIZATION FOR STUDENT LEARNING

SCHOOL PURPOSE

1. The school has established a clear vision and mission (purpose) that reflects the beliefs and philosophy of the institution. The purpose is defined further by adopted schoolwide learner outcomes that reflect defined global competencies for all students and form the basis of the educational program for every student.

GOVERNANCE

2. The governing authority (a) adopts policies which are consistent with the school vision and mission (purpose) and support the achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes, i.e., global competencies, (b) delegates implementation of these policies to the professional staff, and (c) monitors results.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

3. The school leadership (1) makes decisions to facilitate actions that focus the energies of the school on student achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes, (2) empowers the staff, and (3) encourages commitment, participation, and shared accountability for student learning in a global environment.

STAFF

4. The school leadership and staff are qualified for their assigned responsibilities, are committed to the school's purpose and engage in ongoing professional development that promotes student learning in a global society.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

5. The school has a safe, healthy, nurturing environment that reflects the school's purpose and is characterized by respect for differences, trust, caring, professionalism, support, and high expectations for each student.

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

6. The school leadership and staff regularly assess student progress toward accomplishing the schoolwide learner outcomes and report student progress to the rest of the school community.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

7. The school leadership facilitates school improvement which (a) is driven by plans of action that will enhance quality learning for all students, (b) has school community support and involvement, (c) effectively guides the work of the school, and (d) provides for accountability through monitoring of the schoolwide action plan.

B. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

WHAT STUDENTS LEARN

1. The school provides a challenging, coherent and relevant international curriculum for each student that fulfills the school's purpose and results in student achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes through successful completion of any course of study offered.

HOW STUDENTS LEARN

2. The professional staff (a) uses research-based knowledge about teaching and learning, and (b) designs and implements a variety of learning experiences that actively engage students at a high level of learning consistent with the school's purpose and schoolwide learner outcomes.

HOW ASSESSMENT IS USED

3. Teacher and student uses of assessment are frequent and integrated into the teaching/learning process. The assessment results are the basis for (a) measurement of each student's progress toward the schoolwide learner outcomes, (b) regular evaluation, modification, and improvement of curriculum and instructional approaches, and (c) allocation of resources.

C. SUPPORT FOR STUDENT PERSONAL AND ACADEMIC GROWTH

STUDENT CONNECTEDNESS

1. Students are connected to a system of support services, activities and opportunities at the school and within the community that meet the challenges of the curricular and co-curricular program in order to achieve the schoolwide learner outcomes.

PARENT/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2. The school leadership employs a wide range of strategies to ensure that parental and community involvement is integral to the school's established support system for students.

D. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

RESOURCES

1. The resources available to the school are sufficient to sustain the school program and are effectively used to carry out the school's purpose and student achievement of the schoolwide learner outcomes.

RESOURCE PLANNING

2. The governing authority and the school leadership execute responsible resource planning for the future.

F. THE CHINA CONTEXT (FOR NCCT/WASC SCHOOLS ONLY)

STANDARD ONE

1. Local cultures are incorporated into the curriculum in appropriate ways.

STANDARD TWO

2. The governing body and the school management comply with all applicable statutes, government laws, and regulations.

STANDARD THREE

3. The management of the school's finances and property shall be, at all times, in accordance with the standards which operate in China and shall be consistent with best practices in international schools.

STANDARD FOUR

4. The governing body and the school management are familiar with Chinese laws and regulations related to the rights and obligations of the employees and comply with those laws and regulations.

STANDARD FIVE

5. The school shall actively promote intercultural and international awareness.