



International News

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021!! Ah, the sweet sound of “2021” and the hope that it brings for better...well, better everything! Like most of you, I admit that I’m weary of the “2020 life” – the ongoing threat of Covid and all the fallout from it. I look forward to a world where that threat no longer looms over us, and I have great hope it *may* come about in 2021. But that mere human hope pales in comparison to THE GREAT HOPE we have as Christians – the confident expectation that we have of eternal LIFE with our Lord Jesus Christ! Let’s walk hopefully into 2021!

International schools will continue with virtual team visits and midterm visits throughout the current school year, and we are working with schools and teams to prepare for these visits. If you have any questions, please contact me or Kim Park.

A few reminders for schools and visiting teams regarding indicators. We often see these mistakes:

- Only 3 critical indicators may be less than fully compliant at the time of a team visit
- All 6 required critical indicators must be fully compliant at the time of a team visit
- Exceeds Compliance indicators will likely result in a commendation
- Partial Compliance indicators must have a recommendation
- Partial Compliance critical indicators must have a major recommendation
- Non-Compliance indicators must have a recommendation

Please email directly to me or Kim (email addresses below) with **ANY** questions pertaining to accreditation. Contacting any other office at ACSI will just delay a response getting to you. International schools have some unique aspects to accreditation; we are best equipped to answer your questions.

Lastly, the following indicators received the most major recommendations among international schools in school year 2019-2020 (which had fewer visits due to Covid). How is your school doing with these indicators?

- 8 Major Recommendations – Indicator 5.2
- 5 Major Recommendations – Indicators 1.1 & 6.7
- 4 Major Recommendations – Indicators 2.1, 5.7, 5.11, & 6.1

Tim Thompson – tim_thompson@acsi.org

Kim Park – kimberly_park@acsi.org

Praying for you,

Tim Thompson
ACSI Associate Director of International Schools

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Academic Services Activities

Accreditation Training

Our ACSI Divisional accreditation teams, in conjunction with other ACSI personnel and a few ACSI school leaders across the United States, have created new training videos for school coordinators (those leading the self-study efforts in preparation for hosting a visiting team), accreditation team members, and accreditation chairs. Those videos can be found here: [Accreditation Training](#). The training videos are divided into multiple segments, each covering different aspects of the self-study or visit process.

For schools looking toward accreditation in the future, ask about our [Steps to School Improvement Program](#). It provides a consultant and concrete helps to make the accreditation process easier to complete at an affordable cost. If you are ready for reaccreditation, contact your [Accreditation Director](#) for information about who your consultant might be, more information on surveys that you might have access to, and when it would be good to use those with your constituents to best prepare for your next self-assessment.

Information for Fulfilling Specific Indicators

There are times where more clarity, a rationale, and/or a sample are needed to support specific indicators throughout the ACSI REACH Accreditation protocol. ACSI has developed and curated various resources that provide additional information as a school or visiting team is working through the protocol. Those resources are contained on our [School Accreditation Documents](#) page under the "Information for Fulfilling Specific Indicators" tab and are organized by Standard and Indicator number.

Accreditation for schools with Online, Blended, or Hybrid Programs – 2020-2021

Schools are asking if offering instruction online this fall and winter will impact their accreditation or if they are required to have their ONLINE/BLENDED/HYBRID program accredited. Here are some basic principles that should answer most questions.

- If the delivery model you use is TEMPORARY (implemented due to the virus), you do not have to seek a different accreditation.
- If you are only offering a few permanent ONLINE/BLENDED/HYBRID courses or just getting started, those courses are covered under your current accreditation. The annual report each year asks about the percentage of online courses offered, which will help ACSI staff to track your progress and better assist you.
- ACSI staff may proactively send you the separate protocol so you can be aware of the standards as you are building your program. This will help you create it with best practices.

- Once your school reaches the thresholds that require a special protocol, ACSI staff will consult with you about when you will need to complete a self-study and host a visit using that protocol. It will be a year or more from the time you supply that information on the Annual Report.
- For additional questions, contact your regional accreditation director or accreditation@acsi.org.

Announcements

Since our regions have been reorganized into divisions, we are using the divisional titles for our newsletters and our accreditation commissions moving forward. While the divisional titles help us remember that we are part of a larger network throughout the country, there are times when an event offered locally or group of schools set apart for commission review makes sense in smaller groups. Also, these smaller units may serve schools that connect with different regional accrediting partners as well. This way, we have the best of both worlds. If you have any questions about these titles, please contact your [Division Director](#) or accreditation@acsi.org.

Association of Christian Schools International | 731 Chapel Hills Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920
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