International Update

Greetings from the Accreditation office for the International Schools region! As this school year is winding down, Kim and I would like to express our appreciation for all of you who served on accreditation teams this year—both chairs and team members. Accreditation depends upon YOU—volunteer educators who are willing to serve sister schools and function as iron sharpening iron. The beauty of the process is that both the hosting school and the team members benefit. The school benefits from the expertise of fellow educators; team members benefit from an excellent professional development experience. You are much appreciated!

- **Accreditation Team** : If you have never served on an accreditation team and would be interested in doing so, please fill out the team member application at https://www.acsi.org/teamaccreditationdocuments (scroll down to "Pre-Visit Documents").
- **Annual Report Change** : Annual reports for schools following a western calendar will be due September 30 rather than in June as in previous years. The updated annual report form will be sent to schools in August. Annual reports for schools following a calendar year will be due February 28. The updated form will be sent in January.
- **Update Contact Information in Your ACSI Portal**: If you have not updated your school's enrollment numbers and/or your school's Key Contacts in the ACSI database recently, please do so as soon as possible. This will help ensure ACSI communications reach the correct people at your school. Click here to download the User Guide "Updating Your School's Demographics" to walk you through this process. Please be sure to list the accreditation contact at your school.

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From the Office of Academic Services

REACH Refresh
As many have heard, ACSI has completed a minor revision of the REACH protocol, to be implemented beginning this fall (2019). You can find updated manuals, a PowerPoint presentation, and a Word document highlighting the most significant changes on a dedicated page of our website titled REACH Revisions – 2019 Edition.

The ePlatform for self-study and team visits will be unavailable during June and July of 2019 while receiving updates. Access will be restored August 1, 2019; all updated documents will also be ready by that date. Schools are encouraged to begin working on their self-studies prior to their scheduled 2019/2020 visits by utilizing Word templates to write narrative sections and by

organizing evidence by standard and indicator. They can then easily be uploaded once access to the ePlatform is restored.

Updated Certification Requirements Certification Spreadsheet for Accreditation
As part of the revisions to the REACH accreditation protocol, ACSI will now accept state credentials to fulfill the administrator and teacher certification requirements for indicators 4.4 and 4.6. Credentials that qualify will be full state licenses/certificates requiring ongoing professional development. Emergency, temporary, substitute, non-tax, non-public, or other types of certificates will not qualify. If a state certificate requires teaching experience to receive full standing, it may qualify upon review. Those using a state credential must keep it current, complete the Christian Philosophy of Education checklist (if they have not previously done so), and complete approximately one approved Bible CEU each year. ACSI certification will remain as an option for those who do not hold a state credential.

The Certification Spreadsheet has been updated with two new sections for state-credentialed teachers and administrators to help schools track this information. The rest of the sections closely match the previous version so schools should be able to copy and paste information from their most recent Certification Spreadsheet. The updated version of the spreadsheet can be found on the REACH Revisions – 2019 Edition page of our website.

Early Education Staff Qualifications
ACSI has recently updated the staff qualification accreditation requirements. However, these *are not critical indicators*. The new standards (4.4a, 4.5a, and 4.5b) were implemented to allow ACSI's Early Education accreditation protocol to remain on par with many states' Early Education staff qualification requirements. As you prepare your self-study, use these as goals for school improvement but do not be concerned if you mark one of more of these in partial compliance. Doing so will not prevent a school from becoming accredited or retaining its accreditation status. Additionally, schools have the option of obtaining a waiver for any Early Education Teacher or Teacher Assistant who does not meet the requirement as set forth by the indicators. Please see the "EE Accreditation Documents" section of the School Accreditation Documents webpage for more information.

Residential Program Accreditation Endorsement
ACSI now offers an accreditation endorsement designed to be used in conjunction with the ACSI REACH accreditation protocol for schools that have residential (boarding or homestay) programs. We are entering a pilot year of utilizing the Residential Program protocol, and we hope to be able to use it to strengthen the boarding or homestay programs at ACSI schools. If your school has a boarding or homestay program and are interested in participating in the pilot year of the protocol at no additional charge, please contact us at accreditation@acsi.org.

Updated Logos
A few years ago, ACSI updated both the primary ACSI logo as well as the ACSI Accredited logo. Schools can access the updated primary ACSI logo here: ACSI Logo. Accredited schools can contact their regional accreditation team for an updated ACSI Accredited logo. If not using these logos already, we ask that schools replace the old ACSI logo with the updated versions on websites and other media.