



International News

Hello everyone! I hope you all are doing well as you go into this most unusual school year. Whether you are onsite or virtual (or both), it is certain to be a year like none before. We are all faced with difficult decisions and dilemmas for which there are no easy answers. God has repeatedly drawn my attention to a passage in Isaiah – ***“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*** (Isaiah 43:18-19) God has promised to make a way in this wilderness and to provide a river in this desert. May He make your path clear in all the challenges that you face!

Here are a few announcements and reminders:

- International school accreditation team visits for 2020-2021 will all be virtual. We are finalizing plans and a process for conducting virtual visits and will be in touch with those schools very soon to provide instructions and training.
- Virtual or not, the need for accreditation team members is just as great. Without volunteer peer educators to serve on virtual accreditation teams, visits cannot occur. Please seriously consider serving on a virtual team if called upon; if you're interested in serving on a team (and have not done so previously), please let us know of your interest by sending an email to accreditation_international@acsi.org.
- ACSI and the Colson Center are pleased to announce a new partnership designed to provide guidance for teaching worldviews, culture, and cultural engagement. The two organizations will collaborate on a 10-hour digital Professional Development program for Christian schools at no additional cost - <https://www.acsi.org/news/colson-center-press-release>. This video series will count for the video portion of the CPoE (fulfilling the “View” part of both halves). Participants will need to simply notate on the checklist that they viewed all 5 modules of the “Worldviews and Cultural Fluency” course. The reading and writing portions of the CPoE requirement will still need to be fulfilled.
- The preparation that teachers completed beyond their regular classroom planning in order to transition to online/remote learning, including any professional development opportunities or other training provided by the school, would qualify for education CEUs. Schools can upload these CEUs

through the regular CEU approval process and issue the CEUs directly to those teachers. Questions should be directed to ceus@acsi.org.

- Survey instruments created by the Coalition of Christian School Accreditors are available for international schools. These may be fully adapted to fit your school context. Click [here](#) to download those documents. There is no need to credit ACSI or CCSA in using these instruments.
- Annual reports are due September 30. If you have not received an email with the link to complete the online annual report form, please let us know by emailing accreditation_international@acsi.org.
- Membership renewal invoices were recently sent for 2020-2021. When renewing your membership, please make sure to update your school information in your ACSI account so we will have accurate contact information for the 2020-2021 school year.

Blessings to you all!

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Academic Services News

Guidelines for Accepting Credits from Other Sources

There are several considerations an ACSI accredited school must make when determining whether to accept credits from other sources while students are attending your

school. This would apply to any courses taken concurrently, including credit recovery courses, enrichment courses, and dual college credits, whether taken online, at your school, or at a nearby college. In some states, schools have little choice but to accept credits students take at a local college/university, including secular colleges/universities. In the instances where an ACSI accredited school accepts credits from outside sources, the school must ensure several items are addressed. The [Guidelines for Accepting Credits from Outside Sources](#) document addresses these in detail:

1. If the school is **hosting a dual-credit course on campus, or has contracted an off-campus course**, the course must be included in the school's curriculum guide.
2. For **off-campus or online courses not contracted by the school**, the school must have a policy that addresses accepting credits from off-campus or online courses (concurrently). The school must address what to do when the course is provided by a non-Christian provider, including how to help the student incorporate what they are learning with their biblical worldview.

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

Schools are asking if offering instruction online this year 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 (due to the virus), you do not have to seek a different accreditation. You will describe that briefly on the Annual Report for information only, in the section about COVID-19 changes.
- When you are asked about ONLINE/BLENDED/HYBRID courses on the Annual Report, only answer about the online courses that are a part of your permanent program. The Annual Report will help you calculate if you have reached a threshold requiring a separate protocol for accreditation. If so, you will be sent more information that applies to your program.
- If you are only offering a few permanent ONLINE/BLENDED/HYBRID courses or just getting started, those courses are covered under your current accreditation.
- 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.

REACH 2019 Standard 4 Revised Indicators

During the summer of 2020, ACSI revised several indicators in Standard 4 to provide more flexibility in meeting the personnel qualifications. ***These changes are effective immediately.***

- Indicators 4.4 and 4.6 (K-12 Administrator and Faculty certification requirements) were revised to make schools aware that they could use the [School-Based Professional Development Plan](#) in lieu of ACSI and State Certification in order to fulfill Indicators 4.4 and 4.6.
- Indicators 4.4a, 4.5a, and 4.5b (dealing with Early Education directors, teachers, and teacher assistants, respectively) were revised to add a professional growth plan option (eliminating the need for waivers), making it easier for Early Education programs to meet the requirements.

We will publish the revised Standards Manual, Rubrics Manual, and Standards Checklist as soon as those are reformatted. In the meantime, we have created a page on our website that describes these changes and provides some supporting documentation: [REACH 2019 Standard 4 Revised Indicators](#).

Christian Philosophy of Education

There is now another option for completing the Christian Philosophy of Education requirement. [Our Daily Bread University](#) offers an **online module** to fulfill the Christian Philosophy of Education. Once a participant completes both modules through Our Daily Bread University, the participant will receive a certificate of completion and a checklist of final requirements. Once the participant completes the final requirements, an administrator can sign that checklist in order for the participant to attach to the application for certification. This module is also worth one Bible CEU. Additionally, Our Daily Bread University has many other Bible CEU options.

Teachers and administrators will still be able to complete the [ACSI Christian Philosophy of Education Checklist](#), the [ACSI Europe Online Module](#), Fresno Pacific University's [EDU 933- Biblical Worldview Integration](#), or an approved course from one of our [ACSI HEAP Institutions](#)

ACSI CEU Information

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT BE ASKING

1. **ACSI and Colson Center "Worldview & Culture Fluency" Training for Christian Educators** - As you have probably heard, ACSI and the Colson Center have partnered in a professional development opportunity to provide guidance for teaching worldviews, culture, and cultural engagement. This is a 10-hour digital program for Christian schools which offers ACSI CEUs. The Colson Center, an approved CEU Provider, will award CEU certificates. Be sure you are familiar with how to get your CEUs. <https://www.educators.colsoncenter.org/>
2. **BJU Press Exchange Conference** – For those of you who attended this virtual conference and were awarded paper CEU certificates from BJU Press, please hold on to them. You can send the paper CEU certificates in with your completed certification application when it is time to renew. You cannot upload these into your (or your teachers') VPPs.

As always, if you have any questions, please email the [CEU Coordinator](#).

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