



DIVISIONAL ACCREDITATION DIRECTOR



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New Beginnings!

Early in my career as a young head of school, I chose *New Beginnings* as the theme for the upcoming school year. Little did I understand at that point that new beginnings are a part of every school year—and, indeed, a part of life. As you embark on the new beginnings of this school year, I pray that it's a year marked by God's presence, met expectations, and unexpected blessings!

As I shared with you all last spring, I'm near to embarking on new beginnings myself. My last day as an employee of ACSI will be September 30 of this year. On October 1, I begin a new position as Director of School Operations at the Network of International Christian Schools. While I am excited about this new beginning, I am equally sad about leaving ACSI and the work that I have loved for the past 10 years. It has been the greatest of privileges to serve the Lord by serving ACSI accredited schools and the wonderful leaders and teachers in those schools around the world.

Michael McNabb will be the new Director of Accreditation for the International Division of ACSI. This will be a year of new beginnings for Michael, too, and I know that he will serve you well. I invite you to begin copying him on emails related to accreditation (as well as Kim Park); their email addresses are below. After September 30, please feel free to contact me at timthompson@nics.org.

Final edits have been made to all *Inspire* documents at this point (based upon feedback from the pilot phase of the protocol development). Final versions of the Standards Manual, other handbooks, and all supporting documents are now available on the ACSI website. **Please visit our [NEW Accreditation Documents](#) page for all updated *Inspire* documents.**

ICEC Asia is scheduled for November 26-29 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Pre-Conference courses include *Inspire* Accreditation Training. Schools with visits later this school year or

in 2024-2025 should consider sending someone to attend this training. More information about the conference and *Inspire* accreditation training can be found [here](#).

Congratulations to the following schools that received accreditation at the recent meeting of ACSI's Commission on Accreditation.

- American International School, Accra, Ghana
- Dakar Academy, Dakar, Senegal
- El Shaddai Christian School, Durbanville, South Africa (Initial Accreditation)
- Gitega International Academy, Gitega, Burundi
- Greater Grace International School, Budapest, Hungary
- Greater Grace International School, Brasov, Romania (Initial Accreditation)
- Hope Academy of Bishkek, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (Initial Accreditation)
- International Academy of Suriname, Paramaribo, Suriname
- International Christian School of Budapest, Budapest, Hungary
- International Christian School of Pyeongtaek, Pyeongtaek, South Korea
- International Christian School of Uijeongbu, Uijeongbu, South Korea
- International School of Tegucigalpa, Tegucigalpa, Honduras
- Pan American Christian Academy, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Royal Family Academy, Abuja, Nigeria (Initial Accreditation)
- West Nairobi School, Nairobi, Kenya
- William Carey Academy, Chittagong, Bangladesh
- Yongsan International School of Seoul, Seoul, South Korea

As a reminder, please email directly to me, Michael, or Kim 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.

Blessings to you all,

Tim Thompson
Director of Accreditation, International Division (until September 30)
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Michael McNabb
Director of Accreditation, International Division (effective October 1)
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ACADEMIC SERVICES NEWS

ACSI *Inspire* Update

We are pleased to announce the publication of the final version of the [ACSI *Inspire* Manual!](#) During the spring of 2023, seventeen schools hosted a pilot visit using the *Inspire* protocol. ACSI gathered feedback from pilot schools, chairs, and team members, as well as input from others. Many of the comments were positive and affirmed the collaborative and reflective nature of the process, as well as

***Inspire* Addendums**

Along with the *Inspire* protocol, we have published a number of addendums covering EE programs, online schools, hybrid schools, International Student Programs (ISP), and Residential programs. You can find the addendums on our [website](#). Each addendum provides information on when a school must utilize that addendum in conjunction with the *Inspire* protocol. For

the focus on school improvement. There was also some very helpful feedback that enabled us to refine the *Inspire* protocol and process. Here are a few of the changes we made based on the feedback:

- Adjusted indicator wording for clarity, including separating a few indicators to differentiate between concepts
- Added indicators addressing succession planning and leadership development
- Removed the Reflective Questions from the Self-Study
- Streamlined the Survey and Assessment response requirements within the self-study (each of these sections has been reduced to three broad questions, allowing schools to articulate their process for administration, analysis, and application)
- Provided clarity in the Chair and Team handbook for the visiting team's written responses, the Collaborative Goals Meeting, and the Accreditation Action Items

These changes will serve to strengthen and streamline the *Inspire* protocol for schools moving forward.

ACSI *Inspire* Training

We have completed introductory training modules for school coordinators and visiting team chairs. Those training modules are available here: [Accreditation Training](#). The introductory training for team members will be ready in the near future.

schools with an ISP program or Residential program, the requirement to utilize the ISP addendum and/or the Residential addendum will go into effect with visits starting during the fall of 2025. Each addendum provides thresholds indicating when the addendum is required.

Please note: Use of an ACSI alternate accreditation protocol, endorsement protocol, or addendum may require ACSI to add visiting team members with specialized training, knowledge, or experience that would need to travel from a greater distance than team members on a typical visiting team. Reasonable travel expenses would need to be accounted for accordingly and reimbursed by the school.

Annual Reports

The annual report process for ACSI accreditation will remain much the same this year. Contact your [Divisional Accreditation Team](#) for details. However, look for some significant changes to the annual reporting process next year due to the implementation of a new Certification system, as well as a new Accreditation system.

CEU Conversion Change

- ACSI's CEU conversion rate has changed from 6 clock hours = 1 CEU to 1 clock hour = 1 CEU. This will better align with standard practice from various other continuing education providers.
- The number of Bible CEUs needed to gain the Standard and Professional level certificates has been decreased, although with the 1:1 conversion change, it may look like more! .

ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you are interested in the Flourishing School Instrument developed by ACSI, you may be able to get them at a reduced price if your school qualifies. You may contact research@acsi.org for more information.

Watch for your **Membership Renewal Invoice**. The LDRP and optional state fees will each be invoiced separately.

EVENT CALENDAR



October 1st: Annual Reports Due

Please contact your Accreditation Specialist if you have any questions.

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[ACSI | Association of Christian Schools International](#)

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We strive to send valuable, timely emails to our members and friends.

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