



# **INSPIRE: Inspiring Schools to Flourish through Accreditation**

*Incorporating*

*Flourishing School Culture Domains*

*Accountability through standards – Excellence through improvement*

# INSPIRE: Inspiring Schools to Flourish through Accreditation

## *With ACSI Flourishing Schools Culture Domains*

The standards that follow represent the first installment of a new generation of thinking about accreditation. In keeping with the idea of helping schools flourish, this approach seeks to look at bigger pieces of the healthy school. Rather than concentrating on the smaller unit of analysis, indicators and rubrics, this protocol focuses on the standard and seeks to ask how each school is meeting that standard. Each standard includes a "Why Statement" that articulates the biblical foundation, as well as indicators, to elaborate on each standard. Reflective questions will help the school think more deeply about how each standard has impacted their school and how they could grow in this area.

The alignment of the standards to the six Domains in the *Flourishing School Model* is strategic in the sense that it allows schools to seamlessly access resources, professional development, accreditation training, and other materials within ACSI that use these organizing concepts. This protocol does not require that schools use the *Flourishing School Culture Instrument*, however that is a great tool to identify unique strengths and opportunities for growth. Having six Domains is easier to remember than 20 standards, and they will serve as the organizing structure for the new standards. Committees at schools and visiting team members may use these domains as they organize their work or write reports.

DOMAINS	STANDARDS	STANDARD DEFINITIONS
PURPOSE	1 Mission, Beliefs, and Foundations	The school operates from a written mission and statement of faith that outline its biblical foundations and beliefs. The school identifies and assesses its expected student outcomes and uses results to drive decisions throughout operations and programs.
PURPOSE	2 Spiritual Formation and Biblical Worldview Development	The school facilitates spiritual formation of students, provides opportunities for discipleship and outreach, and fosters the development of a biblical worldview. Spiritual growth toward maturity in Christ is a priority throughout school programs, is regularly assessed, and is modeled by faculty and staff.
PURPOSE	3 Governance and School Leadership	The school has a Christ-centered governing body that functions within clearly defined roles and responsibilities, establishes governance policies, participates in strategic planning, and advances organizational effectiveness. The head of school works collaboratively with school leadership to implement policies and procedures, support effective instructional practices, and drive school improvement.
RELATIONSHIPS	4 Caring Environment and Positive School Culture	The school develops a Christlike culture in which staff and students demonstrate respect, sensitivity, and responsiveness to individual needs and differences.
RELATIONSHIPS	5 Stakeholder Engagement	The school engages stakeholders in ways that develop community, promote accountability, and improve institutional effectiveness.
RELATIONSHIPS	6 Community Engagement	The school provides opportunities to engage with local, national, and global communities in ways that make a positive impact on students and build relationships outside of school.

TEACHING and LEARNING	7 Instructional Program	The school provides an instructional program that promotes a biblical worldview; supports the school’s expected student outcomes; and fosters high student engagement, critical thinking, and academic growth.
TEACHING and LEARNING	8 Curriculum Planning	The school develops, implements, and maintains curriculum documentation across grade levels and subject areas that effectively supports quality instruction.
TEACHING and LEARNING	9 Assessment and Use of Learning Data	The school conducts and analyzes varied and authentic assessments to monitor and evaluate student learning. The school then utilizes results to inform decision making.
TEACHING and LEARNING	10 Professional Development and Teacher Evaluation	The school plans and implements a coordinated program of professional development and teacher evaluation that results in improved professional practice and increased student achievement.
EXPERTISE	11 Legal and Ethical Compliance	The school complies with applicable laws and regulations and implements written policies to promote institutional effectiveness and preserve the biblical foundations of the school.
EXPERTISE	12 Staff Qualifications and Human Resources	The school maintains human resource policies and implements practices that ensure the employment, management, and evaluation of qualified and competent Christian personnel to enhance organizational effectiveness.
EXPERTISE	13 Student Support Services	The school provides advising and support services that assist students in preparing for future success while considering the unique needs of each student.
RESOURCES	14 Financial Oversight	The school operates with integrity through sound financial practices that promote institutional effectiveness and financial stability.
RESOURCES	15 Resource Planning	The school engages in long-range planning to maintain viability, provide sufficient resources, and ensure appropriate staffing to fulfill the school’s mission.
RESOURCES	16 Facilities and Transportation	The school provides facilities that are safe, secure, well-maintained, and adequate to fulfill the school’s mission. Facilities and transportation, as provided, operate according to applicable legal and safety requirements.
RESOURCES	17 Instructional Resources	The school curates and provides instructionally appropriate resources to support and enhance the educational program.
WELL-BEING	18 Health and Safety	The school operates from written policies and procedures that ensure the health and safety of staff, students, and campus visitors.
WELL-BEING	19 Staff Wellness	The school provides all personnel with a Christ-centered work environment, appropriate support, and encouragement to pursue a healthy lifestyle.
WELL-BEING	20 Student Wellness	The school provides a distinctively Christian environment in which students are well cared for, feel supported and secure, and are encouraged to pursue godly and healthy living.

*...so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ. Philippians 1:10*