



## **Independent Review of the Flourishing School Culture Instrument (FSCI)**

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In the spring of 2020, ACSI contracted with Canadian think tank [Cardus](#) to conduct an independent review of ACSI's Flourishing School Culture Instrument (FSCI). An independent review by a qualified scholar is a more rigorous and thorough examination of a research instrument than the peer review process used in scholarly publication. The independent review of the FSCI was conducted by Dr. Albert Cheng, Cardus Senior Fellow, Assistant Professor at the Department of Education Reform in the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas, and affiliated research fellow at the Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard University.

The independent review encompassed five aspects of the tool:

1. Conceptual foundation, including procedures for defining terms, identifying constructs, and motivating the need for the tool;
2. Development process for the tool itself, namely the item-writing process and initial pilot administration;
3. Psychometric properties of the instrument, which serve to provide empirical evidence of its validity and reliability;
4. Best use of the FSCI, in terms of incorporating the instrument into the practice of learning, teaching, and school leadership; and
5. Subsequent development recommendations, including additional analyses that should be conducted in the future and the practical use of the tool.

In the independent review document, the reviewer provided this summary endorsement of the instrument on the basis of the review:

“The Flourishing School Culture Instrument (FSCI) is a measurement tool developed by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and designed to assess whether schools engage in practices that are conducive to their flourishing. The FSCI measures five domains of flourishing based on responses from students, teachers, administrators, support staff, school board members, parents, and alumni. This report is a comprehensive review of the FSCI. Overall, I find the tool conceptually and technically sound. There is ample evidence of the authors' attention to detail and thoroughness. The end-product is quite broad, offering a multi-dimensional view of a school's culture from a variety of perspectives...I give my endorsement for the ongoing development of the FSCI and its continued use by schools for their own formative assessment” (2).

Questions regarding the independent review and the FSCI itself should be directed via email to [research@acsi.org](mailto:research@acsi.org). More information can be found regarding the FSCI and the Flourishing Schools research at <https://www.acsi.org/thought-leadership>.