



DIVISIONAL ACCREDITATION DIRECTOR



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Happy New Year! I'm sure we all pray that the upcoming year will be different than the last. The phrase that I hear now is, "living with Covid." I'm not sure what that means for our world, but I do know that the world desperately needs what our schools offer. I pray that your light shines bright in this brave new world into which we are all heading!

Accreditation Revision

You have probably heard by now that the standards for ASCI's new accreditation protocol, INSPIRE, have been released. Review the standards here: [ACSI INSPIRE - Accreditation Revision Process](#). Some schools will pilot the protocol during the 2022-2023 school year and all schools will be using the protocol beginning with the 2023-2024 schools. But don't stress; schools scheduled for a fall 2023 visit that started the accreditation/reaccreditation with REACH will be able to finish with REACH.

Some have asked, "What can we do to prepare for the new protocol?" Here are some thoughts:

- Address the major recommendations from your school's last team visit. Being sure that those are addressed will enable the school to move into a new protocol with no lingering issues.
- Be sure that the school is in compliance with REACH's critical indicators. Most of those concepts will be carried forward to INSPIRE.
- The framework for INSPIRE will be different than REACH's framework. Whereas REACH has 8 standards, INSPIRE will have 20 standards (with fewer indicators) organized within 6 domains. School committees should be set up by domain, not standard. Think through how you will organize your faculty & staff within those 6 domains.
- Staff and Student wellness will be new standards. Start now to consider how your school may address these important concepts. This could be a good small group meeting topic.
- Note the differences in the new protocol and questions you might have. As additional documents become available, you will find many of those explained. Also, watch for additional webinars.

School Highlights

I'm going to begin highlighting some amazing programs that we find in international schools during accreditation visits. If you've been on an accreditation team visit and found an amazing program, please write up a brief description and send it to me. Here's the first:

For the first time, this year Sekolah Pelita Harapan (a system of schools in Indonesia), in collaboration with Biola University's School of Cinema and Media Arts, offered a special online summer course for senior school students. The college credit film appreciation course allowed students to earn three transferrable US university credits with the added experience of their final projects being reviewed by media experts. Congratulations to the SPH schools for developing such an innovative and enriching course!

ACADEMIC SERVICES NEWS

Accreditation Revision

During the past two years, the Accreditation team has been hard at work on a major revision to the accreditation protocol. This new product, INSPIRE – *Inspiring Schools to Flourish through Accreditation*, reflects current research, reduces redundancies, provides clarity, and adds increased flexibility to allow schools to demonstrate how they meet the accreditation standards in an effective way. This revision was driven by feedback from schools and a desire to strengthen the process by using research to ensure the process is even more effective for school improvement. An overview of the revisions was included in the October *Maximize Your Membership* webinar – **Inspiring Excellence** (Video 3). You can [watch the recording here](#) if you were not able to attend live. Please make sure that you are signed into your ACSI portal account to view the video.

Schools can find the revised Standards here: [ACSI INSPIRE Revision Webpage](#). **Our next item to publish will be the Indicators. Keep an eye out for those to be published within the next few weeks.** Pilot schools will participate in the accreditation process with the new protocol in spring 2023, with the full launch scheduled for fall 2023. This timeline means that for those schools who are working through the REACH accreditation process to host a visit prior to the fall 2023 semester, nothing will change.

You have Options with your Teacher/Administrator Certification!

Teachers, professional staff, and administrators who hold a current, valid state credential can use that *in lieu of* ACSI Certification. The state credential must be kept current without conditions or provisions to count toward the requirement (temporary, emergency, substitute, non-tax, etc. credentials would not be applicable). Those who opt to utilize their state credential to fulfill the requirement would need to complete the Christian Philosophy of Education (CPoE) by the end of their third year of employment at the school and approximately 1 approved Bible CEU annually. The state credential, CPoE, and Bible CEU can be reported on the Certification Spreadsheet – **these individuals would not have to submit the application and fee for certification to the ACSI Certification Department.**

Another option for schools to fulfill Indicators 4.4 and 4.6 would be participation in ACSI's School-Based Professional Development (SPD) program. The SPD program requires an initial application, which includes a comprehensive program analysis, and the application fee. Once the application is approved, the school would then create and submit their full plan. **SPD-approved schools are not required to maintain teacher/administrator certification or submit a Certification Spreadsheet;** rather, there would be separate reporting, as well as an annual participation fee. You can find an overview of SPD here: [SPD Overview](#). If interested in moving forward, the application can be found here: [SPD Application](#).

EE Accreditation Recognized by the Department of Defense

The Department of Defense has approved the REACH accreditation protocol and has enlisted Child Care Aware of America, a third-party administrator, to assist childcare agencies and families. Childcare centers that are licensed by their state and accredited by ACSI will be served and supported as Child Care Aware manages the military fee assistance program. The assistance is awarded to eligible military families. God has answered our prayers! We have been praying for this for over 2 years. God's timing is perfect! To apply for this assistance the family needs to discuss this with their ACSI accredited school, and the school needs to connect with Child Care Aware to begin the process. More information can be found here: [Department of Defense: Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FLOURISHING School Culture I N S T R U M E N T

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

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