Accrediting Commission for Schools

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Hawaii Draft Proposal for Accreditation of All Elementary Schools
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Since the early 1960s the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), a world-renowned accrediting association, has been accrediting public schools in Hawaii. This accreditation currently includes all high schools and middle schools and some of the elementary schools and charter schools. The Accrediting Commission for Schools, WASC, applauds the Hawaii State Department of Education for its 2011–2018 Strategic Plan as a living document to improve student achievement through its three overarching goals:

Goal 1. Student Success: All DOE students demonstrate they are on a path toward success in college, career and citizenship.

Goal 2. Staff Success: The DOE has a high-performing culture where employees have the training, support, and professional development to contribute effectively to student success.

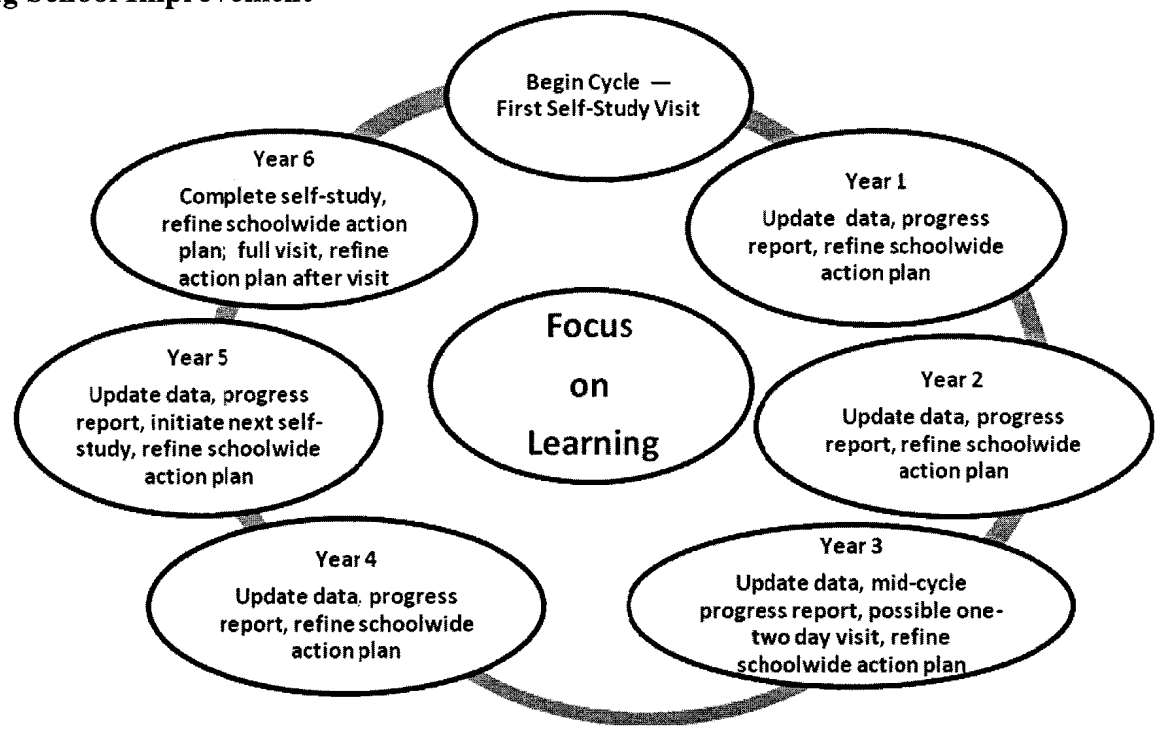
Goal 3. Successful Systems of Support: The system and culture of the DOE work to effectively organize financial, human, and community resources in support of student success.

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, WASC, is committed to supporting these goals through its joint Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) and WASC accreditation process, which focuses on high-quality learning for all students. Therefore, the Commission is presenting a draft proposal for the accreditation of all Hawaii public schools to support and sustain ongoing school improvement for all individual schools within the 15 complex areas throughout the state. This entails the addition of all non-accredited elementary schools over a five-year period with a stronger involvement of the complex leadership in the review of selected criteria concepts.

For the 42 complexes it is anticipated that the currently accredited high schools, middle schools, multi-grade schools (e.g., K-12 or 7-12), elementary schools, and community schools for adults will continue with their regular cycle. Within the complexes in the complex areas, the non-accredited elementary schools will be phased into the process over the 2014–2019 five-year period. The initial orientation for all elementary school principals will occur in December 2012 and January-February 2013.

The following diagram shows the HIDOE/WASC accreditation cycle of quality that reflects ongoing school improvement.

Ongoing School Improvement



Below is a brief summary of the proposed five-year phase-in of the HIDOE/WASC school improvement accreditation process for all elementary school principals currently not accredited within each complex.

- December 2012 through January-February 2013
    - Orientation by district/complex areas on elementary accreditation
    - Collaboration: CAS and elementary principals collaborate on timing for phase-in by complex

- Suggested Phase-In

  2014-2015 - 31 schools

  2015-2016 - 34 schools

  2016-2017 - 36 schools

  2017-2018 - 34 schools

  2018-2019 - 34 schools

Therefore through this HIDOE/WASC partnership the desired results are that all Hawaii public schools will be accredited and involved in a continuous school improvement that ultimately prepares all students to be college and career ready.