



To the Teachers:

- Teachers are assured that a comprehensive program of basic education is being offered.
- Teachers are assured that their colleagues are qualified in professional and subject matter areas.
- Faculty members know that instructional teaching conditions meet NAAS standards and continuous efforts are made to make these conditions even better.
- Teachers know that the instructional program is designed to meet the needs of students and supports the school's mission and beliefs.
- Teachers are involved periodically in a comprehensive evaluation of the school's program and in designing a plan for school improvement.
- Teachers are guaranteed a significant voice in conducting self-studies and evaluations of the school.

What are the Accreditation Standards?

TEACHING AND LEARNING STANDARDS

1. Mission, Beliefs, and Expectations for Student Learning
2. Curriculum
3. Instruction
4. Assessment

SUPPORT STANDARDS

5. Leadership and Organization
6. School Services
 - Student Support Services
 - Guidance Services
 - Health Services
 - Library Information Services
 - Special Education Services
 - Family and Community Services
7. Facilities and Finance

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STANDARD

8. Culture of Continual Improvement

A Message for Parents About Accreditation



THIS IS AN ACCREDITED SCHOOL

Northwest Association of Accredited Schools

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What is Regional Accreditation?

Regional accreditation means membership in one of the six regional, nationally recognized associations that accredit schools in the 50 states and in many countries. These associations are governed by officers selected from among member schools and local school districts.

What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is recognition of a high-quality and well-balanced educational program. Accreditation serves as the catalyst for school improvement. It generally helps to upgrade the quality of instruction and the school's program of study. Accredited schools meet NAAS' accreditation standards considered essential for quality education.

How did my School Become Accredited?

Accreditation is a four step process. It requires that schools renew themselves every six years by conducting a self-study, hosting a peer evaluation team to review and validate the self-study, completing a school improvement plan and engaging in continual school improvement. The process usually includes the completion of an *Annual Report* or other approved approaches to validating compliance with the standards.

Is Regional Accreditation New?

The Northwest Association of Accredited Schools (NAAS) was founded in 1917 and has grown to over 1,800 member schools in the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. NAAS also accredits schools internationally and is the primary association for accrediting distance education, and travel study schools.

What is the Value of Accreditation for this School?

One over-riding value of accreditation is the promotion of continuous school improvement. In addition, it affirms that objective conditions for quality and progress exist in the school. Accreditation attests to the potential for excellence and provides a method for the school to show how it meets approved **regional** accreditation standards and thereby stands as a beacon in the community.

To the Parent and the Public:

- Parents can receive information regularly on the extent to which their school/program is meeting standards.
- Accreditation assures that an ongoing process of evaluation will be a permanent feature of school improvement practices.
- Accreditation evaluates educational programs using the same accreditation standards as the public schools in the community.
- The community in general is more attractive to prospective incoming families and businesses when it can be reported that its schools are accredited.
- Accreditation provides general justification for confidence in a member school. It does not affirm that the school is perfect in all aspects, but it does promise that the school has the resources, leadership, and vitality needed for ongoing improvement.
- Regional accreditation assures transferability of credits among other regionally accredited schools.
- Accreditation assures that colleges and universities will accept student credits.

To the School:

- Accreditation leads to the improvement of the school through its own efforts. To meet and exceed Northwest Association's standards requires total school involvement and a serious commitment to educational renewal.
- Accreditation demands that the school undertake a periodic evaluation which is a stimulus for growth, improvement and directed change.
- Accreditation provides the school a means of actively meeting the needs of the individual learner.
- Accreditation provides a school with a means of demonstrating accountability. It indicates that the school is judiciously utilizing the resources at its command.
- Parents can be assured that staff development and instruction relates to the school's mission and beliefs.
- Officials of schools can draw on a large network of professional help to continually monitor and improve the education they provide students.
- School leaders can use peer feedback to seek and validate new ideas .

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