



Board Agenda Item #	III D- Discussion Item
Date:	December 10, 2018
To:	MPS Board of Directors - Academic Committee
From:	Alfredo Rubalcava, CEO & Superintendent
Staff Lead:	David Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer
RE:	Progress on WASC Accreditation Status

Proposed Board Recommendation

None; Information Only

Background

ASC WASC Overview

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC), is a world-renowned accrediting association and one of the six regional accrediting agencies in the United States. CDE has collaborated with ACS WASC in order to align the accreditation process with the planning process for California public schools required by state and federal statutes in the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and the Local Control Accountability Plan; the ACS WASC/CDE Focus on Learning (FOL) Joint Process Guide is the collaborative process that helps schools identify and implement school improvement needs and supports accountability.

The philosophy of the Accrediting Commission for Schools centers upon three beliefs: (1) a school's goal is successful student learning; (2) each school has a clear purpose and schoolwide student goals; and (3) a school engages in external and internal evaluations as part of continued school improvement to support student learning.

Accreditation is integral to a school's perpetual cycle of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and reassessment based upon student achievement. It fosters excellence in elementary, secondary, adult, and postsecondary education by encouraging school improvement through a process of continuing evaluation and to recognize, by accreditation, schools that meet an acceptable level of quality in accordance with established criteria. In addition to its official title, WASC also means We Are Student-Centered.

Why Accreditation?

- Assures a school community that the school's purposes are appropriate and being accomplished through a viable education program — a trustworthy institution for student learning
- Validates the integrity of the school's program and transcripts
- Facilitates transfer of credits to other English-speaking schools — critical for college/university acceptance worldwide
- Fosters the ongoing improvement of the school's programs and operations to support student learning
- Provides valuable insight from fellow educators visiting the school
- Benefits schools that choose joint accreditation or other collaborative processes, e.g., ACS WASC/CDE.

ACS WASC Accreditation Process

Initial Visit Process

- The purpose of the one- or two-day visit by a two-member team is to understand the school's purpose, its program, and operations based upon the ACS WASC criteria and detailed school description.
- If the Commission grants initial accreditation or candidacy, the school addresses recommendations from the visiting committee report and completes first full self-study by the end of the third year.

Self-Study Process/Full Visit

- Involvement of all stakeholders in the self-study process.
- Clarification of the school's purpose and the schoolwide learner outcomes.
- Assessment of the student program and its impact on student learning with respect to the ACS WASC criteria.
- Development of a schoolwide action plan that addresses identified areas for improvement.
- Visiting committee validation and enhancement based on accreditation criteria and standards, self-study, and findings from the visit.

Follow-Up Process

- Annual assessment of the action plan progress and refinement of the plan as needed.
- Completion of progress reports and/or reviews, e.g., annual reports.
- Celebration of success.

MPS WASC Status

The following table summarizes WASC accreditation status of each MPS and the next visit dates.

School:	Accredited Through:	Next Visit Type:	Next Visit Dates:	Notes:
MSA-1, 2, 3	6/30/21	Self-Study	Spring 2021	Visit in 3 years
MSA-4	6/30/19	Self-Study	3/17/19-3/20/19	The school staff is working on their report. Board member participation will be needed either on 3/17 or 3/19. Final date and time are TBD.
MSA-5	6/30/19	Initial	12/7/19	The school is re-starting the process due to authorizer change from LAUSD to LACOE. Board member participation is not required but encouraged; Home Office representative will participate on December 7, @ 11:30 a.m.
MSA-6, 7, Bell	6/30/22	Mid-Cycle	MSA-7: 12/12/18 (11:30 am) MSA-6: 2/13/19 MSA-Bell: 3/4/19-3/5/19	Board member participation is not required but encouraged. Final times are TBD.
MSA-Santa Ana	6/30/24	Mid-Cycle	Spring 2021	Visit in 3 years
MSA-San Diego	6/30/25	Mid-Cycle	Spring 2022	Visit in 4 years

Budget Implications

N/A

How Does This Action Relate/Affect/Benefit All MSAs?

N/A. (Board members are encouraged to participate in the visits to MSA-4, 5, 6, 7, and Bell.)

Name of Staff Originator:

David Yilmaz, Chief Accountability Officer

Exhibits (Attachments): N/A