

WHY DOES ACCREDITATION MATTER?

Standards for Accreditation

Standards are ideals for quality educational programs that are specific, attainable, and measurable. They describe an effective program that leads to continuous school improvement and results in improved student learning.

Standards for Accreditation of Seventh-day Adventist Schools have been established for the four domains: Purpose, Plan, Practice, Product. These domains identify the Core of Adventist Education (see page VI) and are in alignment with A Journey to Excellence and The Core of Adventist Education Curriculum. The Standards offer a shared vision of Seventh-day Adventist education, but to make the vision real, the details must be constructed uniquely and personally, within particular communities of learners. Thus, quality educational programs may look very different from one another. In the same way, good educational programs should find many pathways to help our learners meet high standards, so that they can effectively achieve academic success and become effective witnesses of the mission of the church.

I: PURPOSE

1. **Philosophy and Mission**—The philosophy, mission, and vision statements are learner-centered and give direction to the school's program, and are developed and approved cooperatively by the administration, staff, and school board and reflect the Seventh-day Adventist worldview, core values, and educational philosophy.

II: PLAN

2. **Curriculum**—The curriculum is the core of the educational program providing for the spiritual, mental, physical, social, and emotional development of learners and preparing them for this world and for eternity.
3. **Instruction**—The instructional program is aligned with curriculum design and assessment practices and provides for a variety of learning experiences, consistent with the school's philosophy, goals, and standards and actively engages learners in learning.
4. **Assessment**—Assessment data informs changes in curriculum and instruction to support learning.

III: PRACTICE

5. **Sustainable Leadership**—Administration and school board ensure the effective and successful operation of the school to promote learner success and well-being.
6. **School Environment**—The school environment is designed and maintained to promote learner learning and to support the school's mission and goals.
7. **Professional Learning**—Administration and faculty collaborate to develop and implement professional learning opportunities to meet the needs of each learner and enhance the ongoing growth and development of school personnel.
8. **Communication and Collaboration**—Communication and collaboration among the school, constituency, and community are essential to providing an effective educational program for learners.

IV: PRODUCT

9. **School Improvement**—The accreditation process assists a school in appraising the total program to determine the level to which the purposes and functions outlined in its statement of philosophy and goals for learner learning are accomplished as well as in providing the basis for action plans to address areas needing improvement.