What is Accreditation

- Self-study process that is a research-based approach to school improvement
- Aligned with State-required School Improvement Planning
- Complimentary to the school’s ongoing improvement efforts
- Provides both internal self-review and reflection by school community and external review and validation of the school improvement plan
- Open to any type of school: middle, private, themed, comprehensive, alternative
- Personalized and adaptable to meet the specific needs of each school
- Provides statement of accountability to public
Cycle of Inquiry

1. Getting Ready
2. Collecting Data & Identifying Issues
3. Analyzing Data, Determining Needs, & Setting Goals
4. Reviewing Research & Determining Realistic Solutions
5. Creating A Data-Driven & Achievement-Focused Action Plan
6. Continuous Monitoring & Adjusting

AESD Accreditation
A Cycle of Inquiry, Action, and Improvement
AESD Accreditation Background

- Washington ESDs began providing accreditation services in 2005
- NWESD took over accreditation services as the lead ESD for AESD Accreditation services in 2014-15
- April 2015 – OSPI approves AESD Accreditation as an option for online schools
- Sept. 2015 – AESD Executive Board approves 3rd year reviews conducted by ESDs within which the school(s) reside
- NWESD contracts for an AESD Accreditation Coordinator and several AESD Accreditation coaches deployed across the State
- ESDs 112 and 113 provide accreditation coaching services by their staff under contract with NWESD
## The Accreditation Process

| Provisional | One-year period for schools wishing to transition to AESD Accreditation  
Coach provides on-site review of School Improvement Plan (SIP) to assess readiness for AESD Accreditation  
Contract for full Initial process to be completed following year |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Initial     | Covers six-year period  
In-depth self-review using School Improvement Plan Process Review (SIPPR) Tool  
External review by coach/site visit team  
School presentation to AESD Accreditation panel of ESD Board members from across the state |
| Review      | Conducted during third year of accreditation  
School reports on progress towards goals identified during initial accreditation process  
School presentation to panel facilitated by the ESD within which the school resides |
| Renewal     | Covers next six-year period  
Builds upon initial and third-year review  
Continuation of school improvement model towards increased student achievement  
Focus on what worked, what didn’t, and what needs to change |
Process: Initial Accreditation

- **Six-year formal accreditation begins**
- **School contracts with AESD (via NWESD) to begin process**
- **Coach/facilitator assigned to support school through entire process**
- **Initial Planning Meeting held**
- **School presentation to AESD panel of ESD Board members from across the state**
- **AESD Recommendation Report prepared**
- **School works through SIPPR Tool, managed online via secure website**
- **Site Visit conducted**
- **Results reviewed by coach/external team**
- **Six-year formal accreditation begins**
- **School self-evaluation by the SIPPR Tool completed**
Process: Third-Year Review

1. Coach/facilitator meets with school accreditation lead; formative check on implementation begins
2. School accreditation team completes documentation to describe/collect evidence on progress towards goals identified in initial process
3. Coach/facilitator and school share progress in presentation to review panel facilitated by ESD within which the school resides
4. School is provided with commendations and recommendations to focus the remaining three years of accreditation
Feedback from Schools/Districts

- Once completed, schools generally feel accreditation was a valuable and worthwhile experience.
- AESD Accreditation process valued for its relevance and connection to the School Improvement Plan work that schools should already be undertaking.
- AESD Accreditation process is reflective and growth-oriented.
- 3rd year review provides a check in for both (re)calibration and accountability for school improvement plan implementation and progress towards goal attainment.
- AESD Accreditation is particularly beneficial for principals new in their positions.
- Principals report that the AESD Accreditation process helps assist and motivate staff to undertake needed changes in instructional programs and delivery.
- Accreditation provides an external validation of school quality and improvement efforts that is important for many school communities.
# History of AESD Accreditation

## Total Accredited by Year

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[Link to AESD Association of Educational Service Districts](https://aesd.org)
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A Look at 2019-20

To date…

- 11 confirmed initial schools
- 19 confirmed renewals
- 28 third-year reviews
- 7 initial inquiries
Challenges/Opportunities

- Sentiment by some schools/districts that accreditation not important or necessary
  - Need to continue to make the case for the role of external review/validation
  - Need to continue offering a high quality, value added accreditation service
  - Need to maintain ongoing dialogue with AWSP leadership about accreditation

- Disruption of principal turnover during accreditation cycle

- Accreditation as a component of comprehensive AESD school improvement services

- The AESD Accreditation process applicable to schools at all levels (elementary, middle and high)

- Financial burden on smaller schools/districts
  - Similar workload for Accreditation coach, regardless of school size
  - Have been allowing payment over two years upon request/need for small schools/districts

- Update and more tightly align AESD Accreditation standards and framework to current OSPI priorities and WA State ESSA Accountability Plan, Washington School Improvement Framework
  - Equity, diversity, disproportionality, cultural competence, OSPI data analytics

- Increased fee from $6,000 to $6,500 for 2019-20; first increase since NWESD became Accreditation lead in 2014-15 (equivalent to a 1.4% annual inflationary factor)
What’s New with Accreditation

- New communications/marketing plan
  - Electronic logo provided to accredited schools
  - New AESD Accreditation website within existing AESD website
  - Promotional video
  - Marketing materials including brochure, pop-up banner, infographic
  - Social media campaign
- Greater NWESD role in communications and marketing
  - Statewide accreditation analysis
- Stronger partnership with AWSP
- Established primary contact email address with AESD, accreditation@waesd.org
Questions?
THANK YOU!

For more information about AESD Accreditation, please visit...

waesd.org/accreditation