



THE TERM OF ACCREDITATION

The chair will lead the evaluation visiting committee in determining a term of accreditation that will be recommended to the North American Division Commission on Accreditation. This includes building a consensus on the term to be recommended based on the school's strengths and areas of needed improvement in comparison to the criteria for accreditation. The following process will assist the committee in reaching a recommendation.

1. Review the Criteria for Accreditation and available Terms of Accreditation (See below).
2. Reach consensus on the recommended term of accreditation
3. Record the recommended term on the form provided, including members names and signatures.
4. Develop a Justification Statement incorporating the school's notable strengths and areas of needed improvement that informed the decision on the term to recommend.

TERM OF ACCREDITATION

The full term of accreditation is six years. This means that a full-scale on-campus evaluation with the preparation of a complete self-study report will occur once every six years. However, one or more interim visits or revisits could be scheduled during that term. One of the following options is to be selected.

- A) Six Years Clear (6CL)**—A full six-year term of accreditation with a written progress report on school improvement action plans and recommendations submitted annually to the union office of education.
- B) Six Years with an Interim Review (6IR)**—A full six-year term of accreditation with annual submission of a written progress report on school improvement action plans and the recommendations AND an on-campus Interim Review visit. IR visits should occur at the mid-term, the third year of accreditation (6IR-3). In special cases, IR visits may be recommended to occur in the second and fourth years of accreditation (6IR-2/4)
- C) Three Year Term with a Revisit (3RV)**—A term of three years with annual submission of a written progress report on school improvement action plans and all recommendations AND an on-campus Revisit. Revisits will occur in the third year of the term of accreditation.
- D) Probation (PB)**—A school may be placed on probation for one or two years. See the options below:

One-Year: There is evidence that the school has not met the Standards of Accreditation criteria in one or more critical areas. Provide the rationale for the accreditation status recommendation in the Justification Statement. A Revisit at the end of the year of probation shall result in a either a maximum term of three years or denial of accreditation.

Two-Year: There is evidence that the school has not met the Standards of Accreditation criteria in one or more critical areas with the recognition that improvements may take up to two years. Provide the rationale for the accreditation status recommendation in the Justification Statement. There will be a Revisit at the end of the term with an allowance for a special review visit after the first year of this two-year probationary term to assess progress as may be deemed appropriate and approved by the Commission. This Revisit shall result in a maximum term of three years or denial of accreditation.

- E) **Accreditation Denied** (AD)—Denial of accreditation would be based on evidence that the school does not or could not reasonably meet the Criteria for Accreditation. This action would initiate a review of the school's official standing as a denominational institution.

NOTE: When the evaluation is a joint visit with a regional accrediting association every effort will be made to ensure coterminous accreditation. In no case shall the term exceed six years.

TYPES OF MID-TERM VISITS

1. **Interim Review Visit**—A full, one-day on-campus visit for observations, interviews, and document review seeking evidence of the school's progress in implementing the action plans and in addressing recommendations. The IR visiting committee shall be composed of at least two members and chaired by union office of education personnel at senior academies within the union territory or the conference superintendent/associate at all other conference schools.

The action(s) to be recommended by the IR visiting committee are:

- a) *Affirmation for continuing* the six-year term of accreditation.
 - b) *Probation for one or two years* for significant areas of needed improvement that result in the school's failure to comply with one or more Criteria of Accreditation.
 - c) *Denial of accreditation* for failure to comply with the Criteria of Accreditation
2. **Revisit**—An on-campus visit of one or more days for observations, interviews (individual and group), and document review seeking evidence of the school's progress in implementing the action plans and in addressing ALL recommendations. The Revisit committee shall be composed of at least three members (except in small schools) and chaired by union office of education personnel at senior academies within the union territory or the conference superintendent/associate at all other schools.

The action(s) to be recommended by the Revisit committee are:

- b) *A three year term of accreditation* which schedules the next full on-campus visit at the end of a six-year cycle. (ONLY available to schools previously granted three year terms.)
- c) *A four-year term of accreditation* which schedules the next full on-campus visit at the end of a six-year cycle, but must include an IR visit at the mid-term, in two more years. (ONLY available to schools granted two year terms at the last full evaluation visit two years ago.)
- d) *Probation for one or two years* for significant areas of needed improvement that result in the school's failure to comply with one or more Criteria of Accreditation.
- e) *Denial of accreditation* for failure to comply with the Criteria of Accreditation.

TYPES OF REPORTS

1. **Progress Report**—The school submits a report of its progress in implementing improvement action plans and in addressing recommendations from the last full on-campus evaluation visiting committee report. It is to be prepared in the proscribed format and submitted annually.

2. **Interim Review Report**—An IR visiting committee chairperson submits this report, which incorporates the school’s Progress Report, the School Profile Summary Report, and additional commentary as needed from the on-site visit.
3. **Revisit Report**—A Revisit Report is an extended Interim Review Report that adds school responses on progress responding to ALL recommendations. It is submitted by the Revisit committee chairperson with commentary as needed after the on-site Revisit.

NOTE: All senior academy annual progress reports are subject to union office of education review under protocols approved by NADOE. Mid-term senior academy reports or all types will be submitted to the NAD Commission on Accreditation. All other school reports, elementary and junior academy are to be reviewed by the conference office of education.