

## RESOURCES FOR SELF-STUDY

Comment [CB1]:

Comment [CB2]:

### WHAT CONTENT IS SUGGESTED IN DEVELOPING A SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFILE?

#### Student Outcomes

1. State assessment test results.
2. Student achievement test results.
3. Grades awarded by area of study.
4. Number of credits earned by area of study.
5. Student participation in extracurricular activities.
6. High school graduation rate and annual attrition rate.
7. Student academic aspirations and career plans.
8. Student expectations and attitudes toward learning.
9. Student awards, honors, and other forms of recognition.
10. Student pursuits after high school graduation.
11. Student success in postsecondary education.
12. Employer satisfaction with the preparation of graduates.

#### Contextual Variables

1. Student mobility.
2. Racial/ethnic composition of student population.
3. Percent of students eligible for free or reduced price lunches.
4. Educational attainment of students' parents.

#### School Characteristics

1. Overall student attendance rate.
2. Stability of school staff (teacher turnover).
3. Student attendance rate by instructional program.
4. Student conduct and disciplinary actions.
5. Teacher attendance rate.
6. Amount of writing and homework completed by students.
7. Staff participation in professional development activities.
8. Student, teacher, and administrator perceptions of the school environment.

#### School Resources

1. Student/teacher ratio.
2. Student/instructional staff ratio.
3. Student/counselor ratio.
4. Experience and training of teachers.
5. Average class size by grade or department.
6. Percent of course sections and students taught by teachers outside their area of certification/endorsement.
7. Variety and quantity of instructional materials and equipment available.
8. Amount of funds allocated for staff development and program improvement

Too much information and/or too much time spent collecting the profile information will result in diminishing returns and frustration. The Steering Committee or subcommittee assigned to the task of developing the student and community profile should use common sense and good judgment as the guiding principles for developing an appropriate student and community profile.

The following is a list of instruments available for surveying the school community (staff, administration, students, and patrons):

- *Indicators of School Quality*, published by the Center for the School of the Future at Utah State University, 6505 Old Main Hill, Logan, Utah, 84322-6505, telephone: 866-430-0708, web: <http://www.csf.usu.edu>.
- *Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools*, published by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, <http://www.k12.wa.us>
- Center for Educational Effectiveness Surveys, <http://www.effectiveness.org>
- National Study of School Evaluation Surveys
- OSPI Healthy Youth Survey

## **BELIEFS AND MISSION STATEMENT OF SCHOOL**

**Beliefs.** Formulation of belief statements should represent the majority of the school community and should focus on the entire school program. Collectively, the beliefs must be comprehensive in terms of the academic, social, physical, and developmental needs of the students being served in the school program. Eventually the beliefs must correlate and be closely aligned with the mission statement, expectations for student learning, the *Core Standards for Accreditation*, and the evidence-based school evaluation process in general. **Each** program, department, curriculum area, and course offering in the school should be represented by at least one belief statement.

The information from the student and community profile should be considered when developing various beliefs. An example list of beliefs:

1. All students can learn.
2. Each student is valued as an individual with unique intellectual, physical, social, and emotional needs.
3. Student learning is the chief priority for the school.
4. Teachers, staff, administrators, parents, students, and community members share in the responsibility for providing a supportive environment within the school.
5. Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning.
6. Assessments of student learning should provide students with a variety of opportunities to demonstrate their achievement.
7. The commitment to continual improvement is imperative if the school is going to enable students to become confident, self-directed, lifelong learners.

Other belief statements relating to the mission statement, safe environments, multiculturalism, technology, vocation, college preparation, independent thinking, healthy lifestyles, etc., are also appropriate.

**Mission Statement.** The mission statement should be a concise statement that reflects the beliefs of the school. The statement should be a collective vision that motivates and inspires while giving a clear purpose and direction to the school. It should be consistent with the expectations for student learning and should be easily understood by all. It should serve as the school's "call to action." Sample school mission statements include:

1. "Our mission is to facilitate optimal learning for all students to enable them to lead fulfilling and productive lives in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex society."
2. "The school is a diverse community committed to the success of all learners as they become knowledgeable, responsible, and caring citizens."
3. "Our mission is to establish a strong foundation for lifelong learning by nurturing, guiding, and challenging all of our students to achieve their maximum potential."