



Why be Northwest Accredited:

- Regional accreditation external reviews help schools stay on track and focused on improving student performance
- Credits earned in a regionally accredited institution are accepted by all other Northwest Association schools
- Accredited schools must meet rigorous standards and report progress on an annual basis.
- Accreditation promotes self-regulation by requiring schools to participate in an ongoing school improvement process.
- Regional accreditation adds value within a local community as its schools are recognized for meeting high standards
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- Regional accreditation protocols help schools collect and analyze the same data that is needed for these state and federal laws
- Regional accreditation provides a vehicle to meet state accountability laws and NCLB
- Regional accreditation helps schools use multiple measures to gauge student progress
- Regional Accreditation provides the structure and tools to align multiple assessments with curriculum and staff development
- Regional accreditation is the education profession's method of self-evaluation and quality assurance
- Students are assured that credits are earned in an accredited school
- Accredited schools are members of one of the nation's six regional accreditation associations.
- Accredited schools assure the public the accountability for their tax dollars.
- Accreditation provides self-regulation
- The regional accreditation process is teacher driven
- It's simple really; state and federal laws tell schools what while Northwest Accreditation shows schools how
- Accreditation is bottom up instead of top down

Procedures for membership:

- Schools must be licensed and recognized by the legally constituted educational agency in the state or government in which they are located.
- Schools submit an application approved by the governing board.
- Schools must submit a completed Standards and Annual Report form by October 15 of each year.
- Schools submit certification that the school has completed an approved self-evaluation within the first three years. This is repeated every six years.
- Schools are rated annually according to approved, approved with comment, advised, warned or dropped

Northwest Accreditation Provides:

- Experienced leadership
- Central web Site
- Links to our seven state web sites
- State advisory committees
- Outside team visits
- Training for team chairs and team members
- Resources
- Opportunities for participation
- Conferences
- Climate profile software
- Accreditation certificates
- Embossing stamps for diplomas

Accreditation Standards:

TEACHING AND LEARNING STANDARDS

1. Mission, Beliefs, and Expectations for Student Learning
2. Curriculum
3. Instruction
4. Assessment

SUPPORT STANDARDS

5. Leadership and Organization

6. School Services

- Student Support Services
- Guidance Services
- Health Services
- Library Information Services
- Special Education Services
- Family and Community Services

7. Facilities and Finance

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STANDARD

8. Culture of Continual Improvement

From a member school self-study ... "We have learned to share our work with our community, and that has reaped us rich dividends. Without this accreditation process, we might have failed to articulate that which is most important to us and to understand the significance of using student performance data to correct instruction midcourse, which would have delayed, if not deterred, our progress in improving student achievement."

NORTHWEST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

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