

# Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) Accreditation

DELIVERING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT PROMOTE LEARNING

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Accreditation is recognition of a high-quality and self-reflective educational program that promotes continuous school improvement. Accreditation ascertains that evaluation and ongoing improvement are embedded in the school culture and practices.

In 2006, due to changes in state law, the AESD in partnership with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) initiated School Improvement Plan-based accreditation. AESD accreditation is a four step process that requires a school to have completed an intense self-study and analysis of local data in the SIP process. Through an arduous review of the SIP and its goals and action plans, AESD grants a six year accreditation to those who meet the rigorous standards. AESD, also, provides a third year review as a part of the accreditation process.

## *Reasons to be accredited:*

- Accredited schools must meet demanding standards and have a vehicle to report progress.
- Accreditation promotes self-governance by compelling schools to participate in an ongoing school improvement process.
- Accredited schools ensure public accountability.
- Accreditation helps provide a vehicle for schools to collect and analyze data that are necessary for state and federal law reporting.
- Accreditation helps schools use numerous means to measure student progress.
- Accreditation provides a way to identify staff development and curriculum needs.
- Accreditation publicizes to the patrons and business community that the local school is recognized for meeting high standards.
- Students earn credits at an accredited school, which may be useful for school transfer or college admission.
- Post secondary scholarship applications may inquire if the student has graduated from an accredited high school.

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