

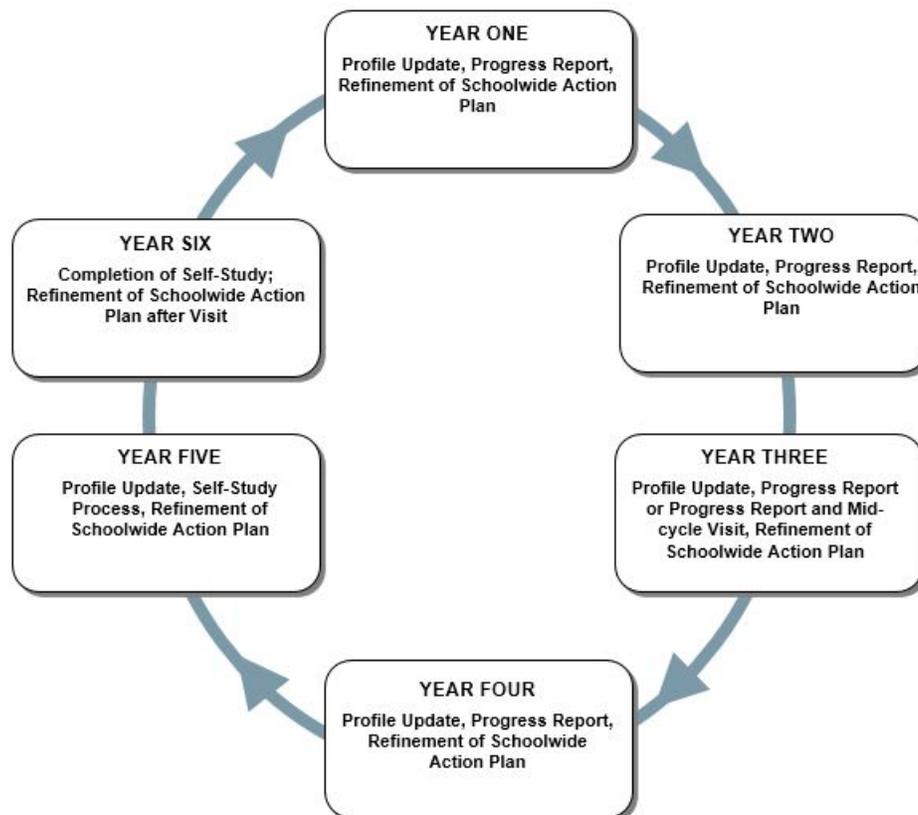
WASC Accreditation Status Explanation

WASC Accreditation Cycle of Quality: Continuous Improvement

WASC accreditation is an ongoing six-year cycle of quality whereby the school demonstrates the capacity, commitment, and competence to support high-quality student learning and ongoing school improvement. The school assesses its program and its impact on student learning with respect to the WASC criteria/indicators and other accreditation factors. Schools are expected to participate in self-study training provided by WASC throughout the 12–18 months prior to the self-study visit. This self-study process culminates in the refinement of a 1–3 year schoolwide action plan. Throughout the cycle, a school is expected to address the schoolwide action plan and demonstrate evidence of acceptable student achievement and continuous school improvement.

Using the WASC criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors, the visiting committee will base its accreditation status recommendation on evidence contained in the self-study and encountered during the school visit indicating:

- The degree to which high achievement by all students is occurring in an equity-centered learning environment
- The capacity of the school to implement, monitor, and refine the schoolwide action plan aligned to the areas of greatest need impacting student achievement and well-being
- The degree to which collaboration, shared decision-making, transparency and distributive leadership are the foundation for school success.



Accreditation Status Explanation*

Overall Question: What accreditation status option best supports defined high-quality learning for all students and the school's improvement needs?

Six-Year Accreditation Status with a Mid-cycle Progress Report

Based on the *ACS WASC policies, criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors/rubrics*, there is compelling evidence that the school needs little, if any, additional support for high-quality student learning and the implementing, monitoring, and assessing progress on the schoolwide action plan. The school is expected to involve stakeholders/educational partners in the ongoing review and refinement of the schoolwide action plan based on analysis of multiple types of data and evidence regarding progress.

The school will be required to submit a comprehensive mid-cycle progress report demonstrating that the school has:

- Addressed the growth areas for continuous improvement through the schoolwide action plan
- Provided evidence of progress on the implementation of the schoolwide action plan
- Provided evidence of the impact on student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner goals, the academic standards, and the major student learner needs.

ACS WASC will review the mid-cycle progress report to affirm the accreditation status and determine if any additional reports, visits, or other conditions will be required.

Six-Year Accreditation Status with a Mid-cycle Progress Report and Visit (1-2 Days)

Based on the *ACS WASC policies, criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors/rubrics*, there is compelling evidence that the school has the capacity to implement, monitor, and assess progress on the schoolwide action plan yet needs additional support to determine the impact of their actions on student learning and achievement. The school is expected to involve stakeholders/educational partners in the ongoing review and refinement of the schoolwide action plan based on analysis of multiple types of data and evidence regarding progress. The length of a visit will be determined by the mid-cycle chair and a WASC director based on the scope of the issues and the size of the school/program.

The school will be required to host a visit after submitting a comprehensive mid-cycle progress report demonstrating that the school has:

- Addressed the growth areas for continuous improvement through the schoolwide action plan
- Provided evidence of progress on the implementation of the schoolwide action plan
- Provided evidence of the impact on student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner goals, the academic standards, and the major student learner needs.

ACS WASC will review the mid-cycle progress report to affirm the accreditation status and determine if any additional reports, visits, or other conditions will be required.

One- or Two-Year Probationary Accreditation Status with an In-depth Progress Report and One- or Two-Day Visit

Based on the *ACS WASC policies, criteria, indicators, and other accreditation factors/rubrics*, there is compelling evidence that the school has had limited or no impact on student learning, the school's program, and the school's operation. The school needs to take immediate action on the identified growth areas with WASC support and feedback. A one-year probationary status indicates there is a need for immediate attention and support. A two-year probationary status signifies the need for attention and support, but more time may be needed to address the identified issue(s).

* No changes have been made to the ACS WASC initial visit process.

The school will be required to host a one or two-day visit in one or two years and submit an in-depth progress report demonstrating that the school has:

- Addressed the growth areas for continuous improvement through the schoolwide action plan
- Provided evidence of progress on the implementation of the schoolwide action plan
- Provided evidence of the impact on student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner goals, the academic standards, and the major student learner needs.

After the probationary visit, the ACS WASC Commission may grant one of the following:

- Continued probationary accreditation for one additional year of the accreditation cycle
- Probation removed and full accreditation status restored; the accreditation cycle continues with an in-depth progress report and two-day mid-cycle visit[†]
- Accreditation withheld.

Accreditation Status Withheld

Schools that have had their accreditation status withheld (which has become final on appeal or where the school chooses not to appeal) have the option to seek reinstatement and request a Reinstatement Visit. In order to be reinstated, the school must submit a reinstatement report that addresses the identified growth areas for continuous improvement and provide sufficient evidence of the progress made. ACS WASC will then decide upon an appropriate time for a two-day Reinstatement Visit. The visit must occur within **18 months** from the date of the Commission's decision to withhold accreditation or the school will need to reapply for accreditation through the Initial Visit process.

After the Reinstatement Visit, the Commission may grant one of the following options:

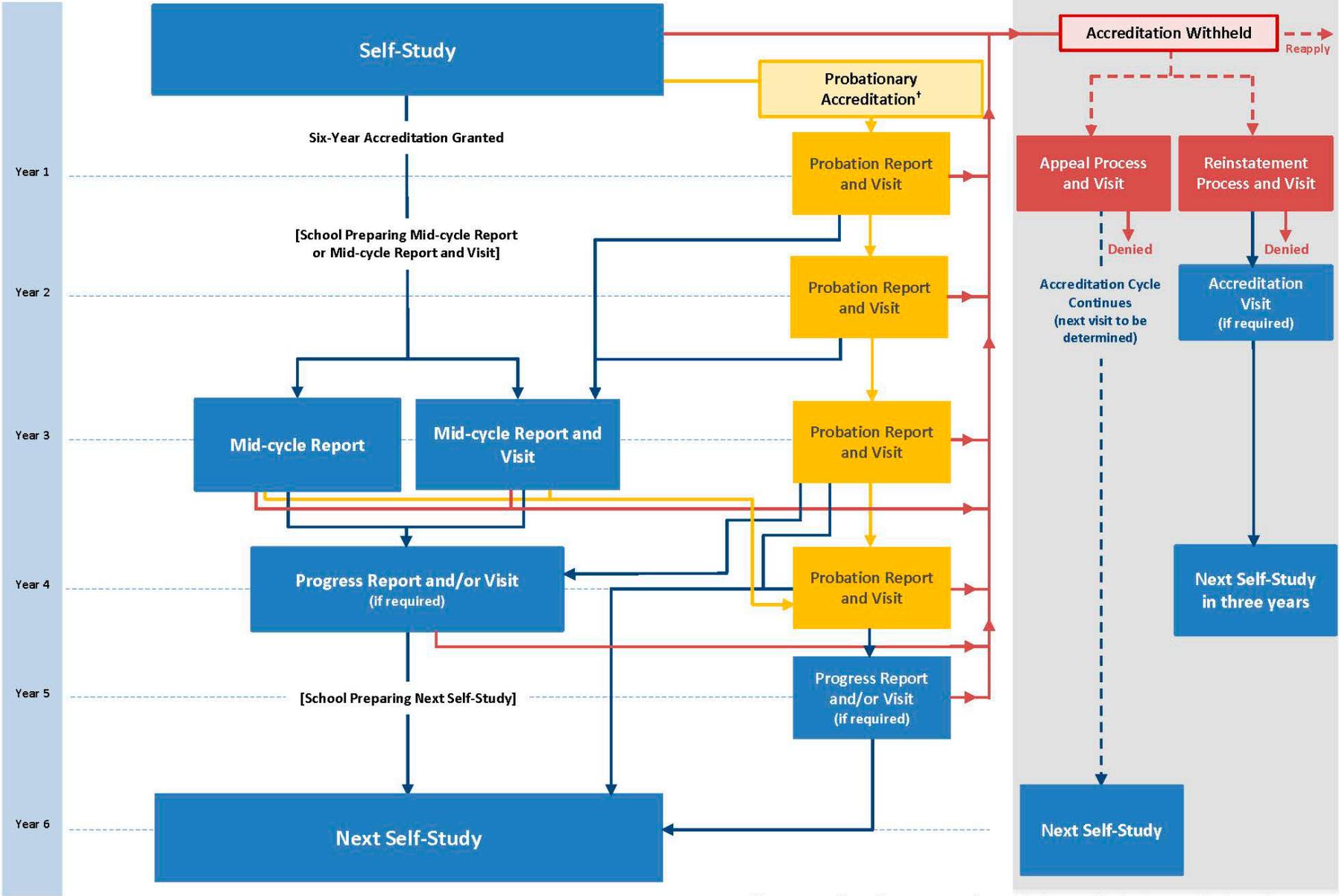
- If a school satisfactorily addresses the growth areas for continuous improvement and updates the self-study, if applicable, or otherwise provides sufficient evidence of the progress made, accreditation status may be granted with annual in-depth progress reports and a self-study within three years of reinstatement. The accreditation status will be effective as of the July 1 that precedes the Commission's decision on reinstatement.
- If a school marginally addresses the growth areas for continuous improvement and updates the self-study, if applicable, or otherwise provides sufficient evidence of the progress made, accreditation status may be granted with an in-depth progress report and a two-day visit in one year and a self-study within three years of reinstatement. The accreditation status will be effective as of the July 1 that precedes the Commission's decision on reinstatement.
- If a school has not satisfactorily addressed the growth areas for continuous improvement or updated the self-study, if applicable, or otherwise fails to provide sufficient evidence of the progress made, accreditation status may continue to be withheld. Schools with accreditation status withheld must reapply if they desire accreditation.

The Commission's decision concerning reinstatement is final and may not be appealed.

NOTE: The Commission reserves the right to grant accreditation status other than those above, including a recommendation for a self-study at any time. Such action will follow a Commission review of the visiting committee report. In the event of a formal appeal, this document will be provided to the school's chief administrator.

[†] Depending on where the school is in the accreditation cycle, a special visit may be required.

ACS WASC Accreditation Status Timeline*



LEGEND: Accredited: —> Probationary Accreditation: —> Accreditation Withheld: —>

*A progress visit and/or report may be required at any time in the accreditation cycle.
†Probationary accreditation status may be appealed.