



Adventist schools in the Southwestern Union are accredited through the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) which is recognized by the National Council for Private School Association (NCPSA) and state accrediting agencies.

Let's take a closer look at this important process, beginning with the Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Cycle. In the Southwestern Union, there are close links between the CSI Cycle and the Accreditation Process.

The Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Cycle, a research-based framework centered on data analysis, lays the ground work for the link between the J2E principles and the Accreditation Process. This approach involves transition from an "event" or compliance mindset to a commitment to "continuous school improvement." The annual CSI Cycle is organized around the following components: Data Analysis, Mission, Vision/CSI Plan, Implementation Strategies, Evaluation. CSI Planning occurs in response to data analysis and the identified needs of the school program, with the goal of creating a shared vision which is implemented in a CSI Plan. Most importantly, the mission of Adventist education is the lens through which program change is managed and evaluated.

The CSI Framework is designed to help schools address and answer five key questions through staff engagement and collaboration: 1. Where are we now? 2. How did we get to where we are? 3. Where do we want to be? 4. How are we going to get to where we want to be? 5. Is what we are doing making a difference?

In addition to a commitment to Continuous School Improvement, achieving excellence requires quality assurance with energies and resources directed towards the improvement of teaching and learning within a standards-based framework. Standards are ideals for quality programs that are specific, attainable, and measurable. They describe an effective program that leads to Continuous School Improvement and results in improved student learning.

[The Standards for Accreditation of Seventh-day Adventist Schools](#) is a dynamic, research-based tool designed to assist schools in the process of self-assessment that is context-specific, evidence-informed, and outcomes-focused. The steps outlined in the document provide all schools with a robust structure for reflecting upon programs and practices, raising quality, achieving excellence, and delivering better outcomes for our learners and their families. In this process, the instrument provides a focus through which schools evaluate the extent to which they are meeting stakeholder expectations; delivering on system, school, and community priorities; and implementing strategic goals and initiatives.

The Standards offer a shared vision of Seventh-day Adventist education, but to make the vision real, the details must be constructed uniquely and personally, within particular communities of learners. Thus, quality educational programs may look very different from one another. In the same way, good educational programs should find many pathways to help our learners meet high standards, so that they can effectively achieve academic success and become effective witnesses of the mission of the church. As you work through the CSI Cycle in year six of the Accreditation Process, certain information you collect and prepare will contribute to the Self-study Report that you complete in preparation for your school's accreditation visit.