



# WASC

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **What is WASC?**

WASC stands for **W**estern **A**sociation of **S**chools and **C**olleges. “WASC accreditation is a process schools use to monitor student learning and set school improvement goals. Accrediting Commission of Schools (ACS) WASC accreditation is an ongoing cycle of quality.” ([www.acswasc.org](http://www.acswasc.org)) In addition to fostering ongoing improvement of the school’s programs and operations to support student learning, accreditation validates the integrity of the school’s program and transcripts which are important for college acceptance.

### **Is South Tahoe High School accredited?**

**YES!** STHS is accredited through June 2018. The school and staff have made great progress and are **optimistic** that we will **remain** accredited. STHS has always been accredited for 6-year cycles and we are working toward this outcome once again.

### **Why did STHS receive probationary status?**

STHS received a lot of positive feedback from the visit in 2016. However, WASC representatives wanted to see growth in a few areas including:

- greater implementation of Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards;
- more collaboration and professional development for staff;
- parent/community involvement in decision making about the direction of the school and;
- a long term plan for monitoring progress on goals that will improve student learning.

### **When is the WASC Visiting Committee coming to review the school and who is coming?**

The Visiting Committee will consist of three educators from California. They will arrive midday Sunday, March 18th and complete their visit by the end of the day on March 20th.


### **How are STHS and the District ensuring the March visit goes well?**

- STHS English and Math teachers have developed courses of study that align with Common Core Standards and Science teachers are making shifts towards Next Generation Science Standards. This work was already underway and we appreciate everyone’s hard work and dedication!
- Teachers are collaborating and working together to continually improve their practice with a focus on learning.
- The District has committed resources including training for all teachers in student engagement, meetings between STHS and STMS in Math and English on common practices and Common Core Standards, funding for collaboration and professional development, data collection, and coordination of educational services.
- Community involvement in the Viking Vision 2020 process has been fantastic with participants also serving on School Site Council, English Learner Advisory Council, and Boosters. We have also met new families and community members. Viking Vision 2020 is a long-term plan with learning centered goals and will help us to monitor progress together.

### How are Viking Vision 2020 and WASC related?

WASC is looking for an ongoing, long term plan to continuously improve student learning and the school. They also want to see how school goals are connected to the community. Viking Vision 2020 is mirrored in our new WASC Schoolwide Action Plan and has the same four goals listed below.

Students, families, staff and community members have given valuable input into a vision for school experiences that promote authentic collaboration and real-world learning. Together, we identified enduring qualities that will enable **all** our students to flourish in life. These student learning outcomes are called the Viking Graduate Profile. The action plan describes what we will do and how we will measure impact on student achievement. We will regularly review our plans and make adjustments when needed. This is a snapshot of Viking Graduate Profile and Viking Vision 2020 Goals:

 <b>Vision of Student-Centered Learning:</b> Students develop a sense of purpose through authentic collaboration and real-world learning.	
<b>Viking Graduate Profile: 5Cs &amp; Healthy Independence</b>	<b>Viking Vision 2020 Goals</b>
Critical Thinking Collaboration Curiosity Communication Character Healthy Independence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. College, Career and Life Readiness</li><li>2. Access and Equity</li><li>3. Belonging and Community Connectedness</li><li>4. Family Engagement</li></ol>

### What will happen when the Visiting Committee tours STHS in March?

The Visiting Committee will meet with LTUSD and STHS leadership, students, staff, families and community members. They will also be visiting classrooms and reviewing evidence and samples of our work.

### How can students and families help?

Engage in learning as a community whether in class, in a meeting, participating clubs, playing sports or reading Boosters newsletters (sign up [sthsclub@gmail.com](mailto:sthsclub@gmail.com)). Reflect on and actively develop qualities in the Viking Graduate Profile (adults can grow these qualities too). Show appreciation and confidence in our STHS community. We are committed to doing our best for students and your support will help us reach our goals. Our next Viking Vision Community meeting is February 27th. Sign up [HERE](#).

### When will we know if we passed?

We may not know the final answer until July, as WASC recommendations go to a committee for approval. We will keep our community updated throughout this process.

*Thank you!*

Carline Sinkler ~ Principal, South Tahoe High School