



Accrediting Commission For Schools

533 Airport Boulevard, Suite 200
Burlingame, California 94010
(650) 696-1060 • Fax (650) 696-1867

DONALD G. HAUGHT, ED.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Recommendation for a Term of Accreditation

MARILYN S. GEORGE, ED.D.
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Name of School Visited: SANTA PAULA HIGH SCHOOL
Address of School: 404 NORTH SIXTH STREET
SANTA PAULA, CA 93060
Name of District: SANTA PAULA UNION HSD
Form Used in Self-Study: FOCUS ON LEARNING - WASC/CDE
Visit: EIGHTH SELF STUDY
Date of Visit: 3-22-99 to 3-24-99
Accredited Grade Span: 9 - 12
Enrollment: 1,424

The Visiting Committee's CONFIDENTIAL recommendation to the Accrediting Commission:

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|---|---|
| | A Term Of Accreditation For Six Years: A term of six years with a written Progress Report to the School's governing board on the critical areas or major recommendations listed in the Visiting Committee Report. Upon review and formal acceptance by the board, the report will be filed with the WASC Office. |
| X | A Term Of Accreditation For Six Years With A Review: A term of six years with a complete Progress Report on critical areas or major recommendations and a one day on-site review by a two member committee to be completed not later than the third year of the six year term. |
| | A Term Of Accreditation For Three Years: A term of three years with a full self-study and a full on-site visit during the third year. |
| | A Term Of Accreditation For One Or Two Years: A term of one or two years (circle one or two) with a complete Progress Report and revisit to serve as a "warning" that unless prompt attention is given to the critical areas or major recommendations accreditation may be denied. |
| | Denial Of Accreditation: Denial of accreditation based on conditions detailed in the Visiting Committee Report. |

NOTE: The Commission reserves the right to grant terms of accreditation other than those above, including a recommendation for a full 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 principal.

VISITING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lorraine Dyson

Linda L. Janzen

Jacquelyn Jaenicke

Michael D. Keese

Virginia B. Parsons

Richard P. Fragale

a or print name

Signature

Committee CHAIRPERSON

Date

DOCUMENTATION AND JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT

For proper processing, please complete the information in box:

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Richard P. Fragale | Santa Paula High School, Santa Paula, CA | |
| Chair Name | Name and City of School Visited | |
| 760 372-2861 | 760 372-4445 | |
| Chair's Work Phone | Chair's Home Phone | Alternate number during end of June (if applicable) |

I. Complete sections A through E:

- **State the Visiting Committee rating (Highly effective, effective, minimally effective)**
 - ✓ **highly effective:** The results of the self-study and the visit provide evidence of (1) the achievement of a high degree of student learning with respect to the category of criteria and (2) a strong operable school improvement process not requiring external monitoring.
 - ✓ **effective:** The results of the self-study and the visit provide evidence of (1) the achievement of student learning with respect to the category of criteria; and (2) the need for some minimal outside monitoring to support the school improvement process.
 - ✓ **minimally effective:** The results of the self-study and the visit provide limited evidence of (1) the achievement of student learning with respect to the category of criteria and (2) the necessity for outside monitoring to support the school's improvement process.
- **Provide a brief narrative rationale that describes the degree to which the school supports student learning through each category of criteria. (Refer to Chapters IV & V of the Visiting Committee Report)**

The Committee finds that the school meets the specific WASC/CDE Criteria Categories as follows:

A. Vision, Leadership & Culture

Visiting Committee Rating: Highly effective

Supporting Area(s) of Strength: # 1,2,4,5,7,8,9,14

Supporting Critical Area(s) for Follow-up: # 1,2,7

Narrative Rationale: The school leadership and whole learning community believe in a culture of high academic and social standards for all students. All stakeholders see the school as a safe place to learn where students are nurtured and supported.

B. Curricular Paths

Visiting Committee Rating: Effective

Supporting Area(s) of Strength: #1,6,7,11,12

Supporting Critical Area(s) for Follow-up: # 1,4,6,8

Narrative Rationale: Many programs have been developed to support the school's ESLR's. Vocational programs and experiences leading to school-to-career opportunities are available. Concerns include: articulation with feeder schools, increased number of students completing a-f requirements and taking the SAT exams, improvement of SAT 9 scores, coordination/integration of technology into the instructional program, formalized interdisciplinary collaboration and implementation, expansion of the process of integrating academic and school-to-career curricula, and a graduate follow-up survey.

C. Powerful Teaching & Learning

Visiting Committee Rating: Effective

Supporting Area(s) of Strength: # 1,6,11,12

Supporting Critical Area(s) for Follow-up: # 4,6,7,8

Narrative Rationale: Santa Paula High School has made a strong and insightful commitment to provide all students challenging learning experiences regardless of the learning level and style. The school has implemented a block schedule and provided a challenging college preparatory pathway that all may take advantage of. The school has established a support and tutorial system that promotes student success at all levels. With this in place the staff is now ready to focus on developing interdisciplinary curriculum and activities that integrate academic and career technical content. They are

D. Support for Student Personal & Academic Growth

Visiting Committee Rating: Highly Effective

Supporting Area(s) of Strength: # 2,3,4,6,10,11,12,14

Supporting Critical Area(s) for Follow-up: # 1,4,6

Narrative Rationale: The school believes that each classroom is a focal point in a network of support services to ensure academic success for all students. Teachers see themselves directly responsible for providing support to the students within their levels of expertise as well as directly responsible to secure needed support from other available resources and staff members. They network with other teachers and classified staff members on a daily basis to ensure students' academic and personal success. Staff believes the culture of the school is one in which they can change and implement whatever

E. Assessment & Accountability

Visiting Committee Rating: Effective

Supporting Area(s) of Strength: # 2,6,7,8,10

Supporting Critical Area(s) for Follow-up: # 3,4,6,7,8

Narrative Rationale: The staff is eager to devote time to develop assessment methods and cross-curricular instructional strategies. On-going effort to improve assessment methods as they relate to the instructional program and the school's ESLR's is necessary. Staff inservice in the development of content and performance standards and the analysis of data would enhance student achievement.

WASC 32160

II. Summarize the Visiting Committee's findings for these accreditation expectations.

- **The Committee finds that the school meets the accreditation process expectations as follows:**

1) The school has the capacity to implement a schoolwide action plan resulting in ongoing improvement.

Narrative: The school definitely has the capacity to implement the schoolwide plans. The entire staff, certificated and classified, demonstrated an enthusiastic attitude toward the Focus on Learning process, and looking forward to moving forward.

The staff demonstrated an air of collegiality and willingness to devote the necessary time for Santa Paula to be successful.

2) The school has addressed the recommendations of the previous Visiting Committee.

Narrative: The school satisfactorily addressed all the previous Visiting Committee recommendations to the best of its ability.

3) The school's self-study was appropriately developed with the involvement of individuals as required by WASC.

Narrative: The self-study was completed without much input from either the student body and/or community other than sharing the completed tasks with both groups. The Self-Study Coordinator made attempts to involve the community by having two town meetings that were not well attended. The SSC also used the Leadership Class to receive some input.

WASC 32161

III. Provide a brief narrative which summarizes the Visiting Committee's rationale for the recommended term: *(If there is an unresolved minority opinion please indicate and explain.)*

- term options seriously considered
- reasons for the *term recommended*

In the comments reflect upon the following:

- the schoolwide degree to which students are learning
- the capacity of the school to implement, monitor, and accomplish the action plan

The only two options that the committee seriously considered after reviewing the Self-Study, and meeting with the Focus Committees, as well as observation, were the 6-year terms.

The team unanimously chose the 6-year with one day review.

The Visiting Committee's rationale was that there are some key issues in the area of Powerful Teaching & Learning that need resolution. This includes the fact that most teachers are still using many traditional methods, even though the school has moved to 3 X 3 block scheduling. The longer periods (95 minutes) by virtue of length, dictates that different teaching strategies be implemented.