



Accrediting Commission For Schools

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July 15, 1999

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Mr. Melquiades Mares, Jr.
Principal
Bell High School
4328 Bell Avenue
Bell, CA 90201

Dear Mr. Mares:

The Western Association of Schools and colleges announces the action taken by the Accrediting Commission for Schools granting Bell High School a three year term of accreditation, expiring on June 30, 2002. Under previous policy a term of three years meant that the school would complete a full self-study and a full visit by the third year. However, at the June meeting, the Accrediting Commission for Schools modified the follow-up procedure for schools receiving three year terms. The change is shown below:

Three-Year Term

[Schools may receive] a term of three years with a two-day visit by a two to five member committee during the third year, along with a Progress Report on critical areas of improvement and action plans, demonstrating that the school has:

- improved student achievement relative to the schoolwide learning expectations,
- made substantial progress toward correcting the critical areas for improvement, and
- made appropriate progress on implementation of schoolwide action plans.

The visiting committee shall recommend an extension of accreditation up to three years or denial.

While all schoolwide critical areas for follow-up need to be addressed, the Commission has identified from the Visiting Committee report the critical areas for follow-up that must be vigorously addressed as part of your schoolwide action plan. These are given on the following page.

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- ◆ The staff develop ESLR indicators and align the ESLRs with the content standards in all subject areas so as to help all stakeholders connect the curriculum with the school ESLRs to ensure student achievement.
- ◆ The District and site administration implement a comprehensive staff development program to ensure that all staff members are knowledgeable and able to incorporate technology, standards, adjustment to diverse learning styles, current educational thinking, alternate teaching strategies, and assessment techniques in student learning activities.
- ◆ The administration and staff implement a systematic and comprehensive plan to use a variety of assessment data in instructional planning, evaluation, and attainment of the ESLRs that will result in improved student achievement and that all disaggregated data be communicated in an easily understood format for all stakeholders of the school.
- ◆ The administration and Curriculum Committee review the current curricular pathways to integrate the academic and vocational curriculum of the school program to assist students in seeing the relevancy of a personal learning plan.
- ◆ The administration and staff update and increase the print and technology resources in the Library Media Center to provide students and staff with the intellectual and physical access to materials in all formats.

The Commission looks forward to your report of progress made in these areas as part of the two-day visit during the third year. Also, please note the enclosed information concerning the State of California Program Quality Review requirements.

An appropriate certificate of accreditation will be forwarded to you in the near future.

Very truly yours,



Judith L. Endeman, Ed.D.
Commission Chair

JLE:cw

cc: Ruben Zacarias, Superintendent, Los Angeles USD
Robert Collins, Director Senior High Schools, LAUSD
Maurice R. Shaw, Chair

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