

CONFIDENTIAL



Accrediting Commission For Schools

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RECOMMENDATION TO THE ACCREDITING COMMISSION

- Three Year Limited Term School •
- Extension of Term of Accreditation

Name of School: CASTLEMONT HIGH SCHOOL

Address: 8601 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA 94605

District: Oakland Unified School District

Date of Original Visit: ~~4/14/97~~ 5/7/00 - 5/9/00 Term of Accreditation Expires: June 30, 2000

Explanation of the Term Options

A school that has received a limited term should be recommended for a three year term extension by the visiting committee if the school has:

- made good progress in addressing the areas for growth that were identified as an outcome of the last visiting committee report
- made acceptable progress in implementing the action plan
- experienced no notable depreciation in the rest of the school program

Schools which have had less success may receive a two year extension of accreditation, a one year extension or a recommendation for denial of accreditation.

Committee Recommendation: (check one)

- An extension of accreditation for **three** years
- An extension of accreditation for **two** years
- An extension of accreditation for **one** year
- Extension of term of accreditation be denied

Visiting Committee Members

<p><u>Harold Z. Bush</u> Member</p> <p><u>Francina P. Shinnell</u> Member</p> <p><u>Jacqueline P. Wyo</u> Committee Chairperson</p>	<p><u>Dick Marasi</u> Member</p> <p><u>5/9/00</u> Current Date</p> <p><u>5/7/00 - 5/9/00</u> Dates of Visit</p>
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Justification statement

In preparation for the visit by the committee after a three year accreditation, the school prepared a self-study report that addressed all of the Focus on Learning criteria in addition to the critical areas documented in the previous committee's report. Significant changes since the last visit include a new first year principal, three new assistant principals, the addition of 32 new teachers, the school's retrofitting and the growth of the academies from two to eight.

This spring the school received an academic improvement grant of \$10,000, the purpose of which is to engage a broad spectrum of committed students, parents, educators and community leaders in designing a school based system that significantly raises student achievement so that students are academically ready to enter and succeed in college.

However, the school has no procedure for analyzing and using data, including SAT 9 data. No evidence exists that student achievement has improved over the past years. SAT 9 scores for 1998-99 showed the following results:

	Percentage of Students Below the 50 th Percentile		
	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11
Reading	92	90	90
Math	74	84	76
Language	79	86	77

Although the school went beyond what was required as part of the accreditation process by completing a full Self-Study, the report does not adequately connect the Self-Study to an emphasis on student achievement. Out of the nine critical areas delineated in the previous visiting committee's report, the team felt that six of the areas were addressed adequately, that two areas were not addressed adequately, and that one area was addressed minimally.

The Visiting Team is concerned about the ability of the current administration to follow through on the action plans in an efficient manner without support from the District on how to effectively analyze, interpret data to assess student achievement, establish benchmarks for student performance, and when appropriate modify curriculum and instructional practices. However, the visiting committee feels that the new first year Principal needs more time to work with the staff, hence, the recommendation of a two-year term. The team feels a lesser term would have a negative effect on the school's capacity for improving student achievement. The Superintendent is aware of the issues that face the school, including the need to improve literacy, and is supportive of the Visiting Team's recommendations.