



CONFIDENTIAL

SCHOOL # 2 A

Accrediting Commission For Schools

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RECOMMENDATION FOR A TERM OF ACCREDITATION

Name of School Visited: **KEPPEL, MARK, HIGH SCHOOL**
Address of School: **501 EAST HELLMAN AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CA 91801**
Name of District: **ALHAMBRA CITY HS DISTRICT**
Form Used in Self-Study: **PURSUING EXCELLENCE**
Visit: **SIXTH SELF STUDY**
Date of Visit: **3-25-96 to 3-27-96**
Accredited Grade Span: **9 - 12**
Enrollment: **2,268**

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

	<u>A Term Of Accreditation For Six Years</u> : A term of <u>six</u> years with a written Progress Report to the School's governing board on the <u>major</u> 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	<u>A Term Of Accreditation For Six Years With A Review</u> : A term of <u>six</u> years with a complete Progress Report on <u>major</u> recommendations and one day on-site review by a two member committee to be completed not later than the third year of the six year term.
	<u>A Term Of Accreditation For Three Years</u> : A term of <u>three</u> years with a full self-study and a full on-site visit during the third year
	<u>A Term Of Accreditation For One Or Two Years</u> : A term of <u>one</u> or <u>two</u> years (circle one or two) with a complete Progress Report and revisit to serve as a "warning" that unless prompt attention is <u>given</u> to the major recommendations accreditation may be denied.
	<u>Denial Of Accreditation</u> : 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

Robert Stott

Elizabeth M. Ford

[Signature]

John K. Aguirre

D. Michael Nagan

[Signature]

Type name

Signature

Committee CHAIRPERSON

Date 3/27/96

WASC 30182

DOCUMENTATION AND JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT

- I. Provide a brief narrative which captures the visiting committee's discussion of its recommended term:

After studying the report, meeting with staff, students, community, and observing the school, the Visiting Committee completed the Documentation matrix. Each item was discussed and a consensus rating was determined by comparing each matrix item to what the team felt were major strengths and major areas of growth found either in the schoolwide committee reports or pervasively through the self-study itself. The Visiting Committee unanimously agreed on a term of accreditation for six years with a review.

The recommended term was based upon the rationale that

- *the school community demonstrated that time, energy, commitment, and dedication were a part of the accurate appraisal of their school and its programs.
- *the site administration and staff showed a willingness to openly discuss any area of growth determined and to immediately address the concern.
- *the school staff has begun already to pursue restructuring concepts that include increased student support services, a new bell schedule, and different methods of instruction.
- *the staff has generally addressed the previous Visiting Team recommendations.

- II. Complete sections A and B.

- A. The Committee finds that the school meets the specific WASC Criteria as follows:

1. Philosophy, Goals and Objectives

Visiting Committee Rating: Good
Supporting Major Commendation(s): # 1, 3
Supporting Major Recommendation(s): # 1, 2

Narrative Rationale:

The district's mission statement and goals are clearly stated. Mark Keppel High School also has a clear mission statement with goals that reflected in their curriculum, e.g. core reading materials, and ESL curriculum. The goals and objectives are regularly reviewed and communicated to all members of the school community. The school's plans for restructuring reflect the goals.

In the future the school should involve more of the entire school community when determining and evaluating the goals and objectives, especially now that the socio-economic make-up of the student body will be changing.

2. Organization

Visiting Committee Rating: Good
Supporting Major Commendation(s): # 5
Supporting Major Recommendation(s): # 1, 3

Narrative Rationale:

There is a clearly defined organizational structure; staff, students, and parents generally understand relationships and responsibilities. The issue of communication especially in the major decision body, The Instructional Council, needs to be improved. The staff hopefully will focus more on educational outcomes rather than just dealing with a restructure bell schedule; this topic has consumed a great deal of time and energy.

3. Student Personnel Services

Visiting Committee Rating: Good
Supporting Major Commendation(s): # 9
Supporting Major Recommendation(s): # 6

Narrative Rationale:

There is a counseling staff of four full-time counselors for the general student body and a Title I counselor. The counseling program is a systematic, continuous, articulated, and integrated one. It begins in the eighth grade with new students and continues through the twelfth. The success with "Tenth Grade" counseling is outstanding.

Students are able to see their counselor on a daily basis by the use of a signup sheet. The counseling staff has recently initiated a "Counselor of the Day" program to give additional access to students. A major focus of the school program is career awareness. Articulation and coordination between counseling and the school's career center needs addressing

4. Curricular Programs

Visiting Committee Rating: Good
Supporting Major Commendation(s): # 2, 6, 7
Supporting Major Recommendation(s): # 4, 5

Narrative Rationale:

Mark Kepple has been involved in restricting efforts that center upon a modified block schedule. Teacher contract required a yearly vote on the schedule and it was voted down. This focus channeled efforts away from integrating core curricula and implementing the "HOUSE" concept. Once the scheduling issue is set aside or decided, staff can concentrate on curricular issues. In addition to the HONORS ADVANCED PLACEMENT track, core classes are offered on what is called A, B, and C levels: A is college prep; B and C are non college prep, wherein students are placed based on reading and/or language ability. There are several programs that offer academic as well as counseling support. Teachers tutor students before and after school as well as at lunch. The school's drop out statistics are the lowest in the district. Students enrolled in the AP program are competing well nationally.

Other than a room filled with displays from various departments, there was little significant data supporting successes with the regular and special needs students.

5. Co-Curricular Programs

Visiting Committee Rating: Outstanding
Supporting Major Commendation(s): # 4, 8
Supporting Major Recommendations(s): #

Narrative Rationale:

The school has a total of 40 clubs on campus, not including athletic teams. The performance classes are active and provide quality programs for students and parents. During various times of the year cultural presentations are made. A closed campus now has created a positive opportunity to build school spirit with noon activities, although students are slow to recognize this advantage.

6. Staff

Visiting Committee Rating: Outstanding
Supporting Major Commendation(s): # 2, 6
Supporting Major Recommendation(s): # 4

Narrative Rationale:

The classified and certificated staff are dedicated to the school. Many offer their own time and resources to either enhance their programs or supervise activities. Presently the staff is divided over the issue of whether to resume a modified block schedule. Due to changes in attendance boundaries the student population will soon change greatly. This should create a need for more parent-teacher communication and higher classroom expectations.

7. School Plant and Physical Facilities

Visiting Committee Rating: Adequate
Supporting Major Commendation(s): # 10
Supporting Major Recommendation(s): # 3

Narrative Rationale:

The site has not been recently renovate. Major infrastructure concerns exist. Until state moneys are allocated, the site is proceeding with plans to beautify the campus. This "beatification plan" is especially good because it has allowed clubs and organizations to participate in an improvement process. This is an example of a willingness to "work with what they've got"!

8. Finance

Visiting Committee Rating: Good
Supporting Major Commendation(s): #
Supporting Major Recommendation(s): # 7

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Narrative Rationale:

The department are generally pleased with the allocations of instructional money. This does not preclude the questioning by staff as to "why" certain allocations occur. A more participatory process in the initial stages of budget development may resolve this concern. In the next few years the site will be reviewing how categorical funds are allocated.

9. Appropriate student outcome measures consistent with the school's stated purposes give evidence of student learning and success.

Visiting Committee Rating: Good

Supporting Major Commendation(s): # 2, 6, 7

Supporting Major Recommendation(s): # 4, 5

Narrative Rationale:

While dropout statistics are good and advanced placement scores are high indicating student success. The Visiting Team had difficulty trying to determine widespread evidence of student learning and success with regular and/or special needs students. The school did provide samples of student work and authentic assessment; however, the team did not consistently see that type of evidence in the classrooms and/or in any form of concrete data.

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

1. The school has addressed the recommendations of the previous Visiting Committee.

Visiting Committee Rating: Good

Narrative Rationale:

The school has addressed all of the previous WASC recommendations.

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

Visiting Committee Rating: Outstanding

Narrative Rationale:

The self-study was developed with the involvement of the entire staff. All work was appropriately done although the return of staff surveys seemed to indicate either a fair amount of apathy and/or frustration with administration or a general frustration over the changes that had occurred in such a brief span of time: dress code, attendance boundaries, closed campus, losing State funding, and re-voting on a restructured bell schedule.