

AIMS Accreditation Visiting Teams

OVERVIEW:

As a part of the AIMS 10-year Accreditation Cycle, each school completes an 18 - 24 month-long Self-Study. When the school completes the Self-Study, a Visiting Team, consisting of educators from other AIMS schools, visits to confirm, in effect, that the school is doing what they say they are doing and is meeting AIMS and either Maryland or DC standards. Using the school's mission/philosophy as the lens through which to view the school and the information gained in the Self-Study, the Visiting Team writes a report that includes commendations and recommendations. During the visit, the team observes classes, meets with members of all constituencies (Board, Parents, Faculty, Staff, Students), and observes the general operation of the school. The Visiting Team report is sent to the school at the end of the visit. The school then has one year to either accept or reject each recommendation and develop an Action Plan. Upon completion of an appropriate Action Plan, the school gets (re)accredited.

LOGISTICS:

- The visit is 3.5 days long either from 4 on a Sunday until around noon on a Wednesday or from 4 on a Tuesday until around noon on a Friday.
- Visiting Team members are asked to stay "on-site" for the duration of the visit
 - Team members are housed in a single room at a hotel near the school at the host school's expense.
 - The host school provides all meals.
 - Transportation costs are reimbursed.

Responsibilities of Visiting Team members

- Attend an orientation 1 month prior to the visit (usually 11:00 am - 2:00 pm on site).
- Read the Self-Study before the visit with special attention to the sections "assigned" to the individual team members.
- Pre-write sections of the Visiting Team report prior to the start of the visit.
- Be available during the day and in the evening to work with the team as needed during the course of the visit.
- Remain objective throughout the process.
- Maintain strict confidentiality.