Leveraging Accreditation to Identify and Advance Strategic Priorities

February 28, 2020
Why accreditation?
Stages of Accreditation

Stage One: Membership
Stage Two: Self Study
Stage Three: Visit
Stage Four: NYSAIS Commission on Accreditation
Stage Five: NYSAIS Board of Trustees
Section Six: Letter of Accreditation
NYSAIS Criteria for Accreditation
Section Three - Governance
Baseline Criteria

- The governing body ensures administrative follow up as a result of an outside, annual professional audit and the corresponding management letter.

- The governing body reviews and maintains appropriate by-laws that conform to legal requirements while assuring that the school and governing body operate in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
NYSAIS Criteria for Accreditation
Section Three - Governance
Strategic Criteria

- The governing body undertakes effective strategic planning for the school.
- The governing body establishes policies that reflect diversity and cultural competency and ensures that these qualities are reflected in decision-making and governing body membership.
New Power

The deeper truth: We are changing. There is an increasing thirst to participate.
Timelines Collide

**Accreditation Timeline**
- 10-year self-study: Fall 2013-14
- Accreditation report: March 2014

**Strategic Planning Timeline**
- Strategic plan research: 2016-17
- Adoption of plan by BoT: Spring 2017
- Strategic plan implementation: 2017-18
- Final implementation; start evaluation: 2020-21
- Evaluation and revision: 2021-22

**Accreditation Timeline (continued)**
- 10-year self-study: Fall 2023-24
- Accreditation report: March 2024
Why Data?

The best way to prevent a bad decision is to remove the decision. Remove easy decisions, improve complex decisions, consistent decisions based on data.
## Our Progress: Visual Story by Tableau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Action Steps</th>
<th>Statuses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Affirming learning environment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 (DONE), 1 (IN PROGRESS), 1 (TO DO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community education and engagement</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increasing diversity</td>
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<td><strong>Educational Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics and Physical Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 (IN PROGRESS), 1 (TO DO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global education</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1 (IN PROGRESS), 5 (TO DO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4 (IN PROGRESS), 1 (TO DO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revised mission statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEM/STEAM</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper School Vision</td>
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<td><strong>Student Experience</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternative instruction, feedback, assessment</td>
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<td>5 (DONE), 1 (TO DO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family-school relationships</td>
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<td>3 (DONE)</td>
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<td>Health and Wellness</td>
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<td><strong>Sustainability of mission</strong></td>
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<td>Culture of philanthropy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expanding Nightingale’s reach</td>
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<td>3 (DONE), 1 (TO DO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty and staff</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 (DONE), 1 (TO DO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship of financial resources</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 (DONE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Nightingale-Bamford Office of Institutional Research
What’s Next?

Sustainability at Nightingale

Physical Place
Whole-School Sustainability
Organizational Culture
Educational Programs

People
Planet
Profit

START
Sustainability Tracking and Roadmap Tool
Establishing Sustainability Priorities
Takeaways

- Ask your accrediting body how to make your accreditation process as strategic as possible
- Differentiate your school’s compliance needs from your aspirational needs
- Find the right (data-driven, analytical) person to manage the details
- View accreditation as an opportunity to enable faculty members to have an authentic voice in strategic planning
- Ask your team: why are we doing this particular thing in this particular way? Can we do it differently to advance the school’s strategic mindset?
- Seek ways to partner with your accrediting body to advance your school’s strategic vision.
Thank you!

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