

Dear Colleagues,

In the fall and spring 2017-18 newsletters, we spoke of our Journey to Excellence and how it is embedded in the nine *Standards of Accreditation for Seventh-day Adventist Schools*. In this issue, we will look briefly at a framework that serves to link the concept of excellence in Adventist schools to accreditation. In the spring, we will dive into the first step of the framework that will involve a benchmark activity that prepares a school to identify the next steps for improvement.

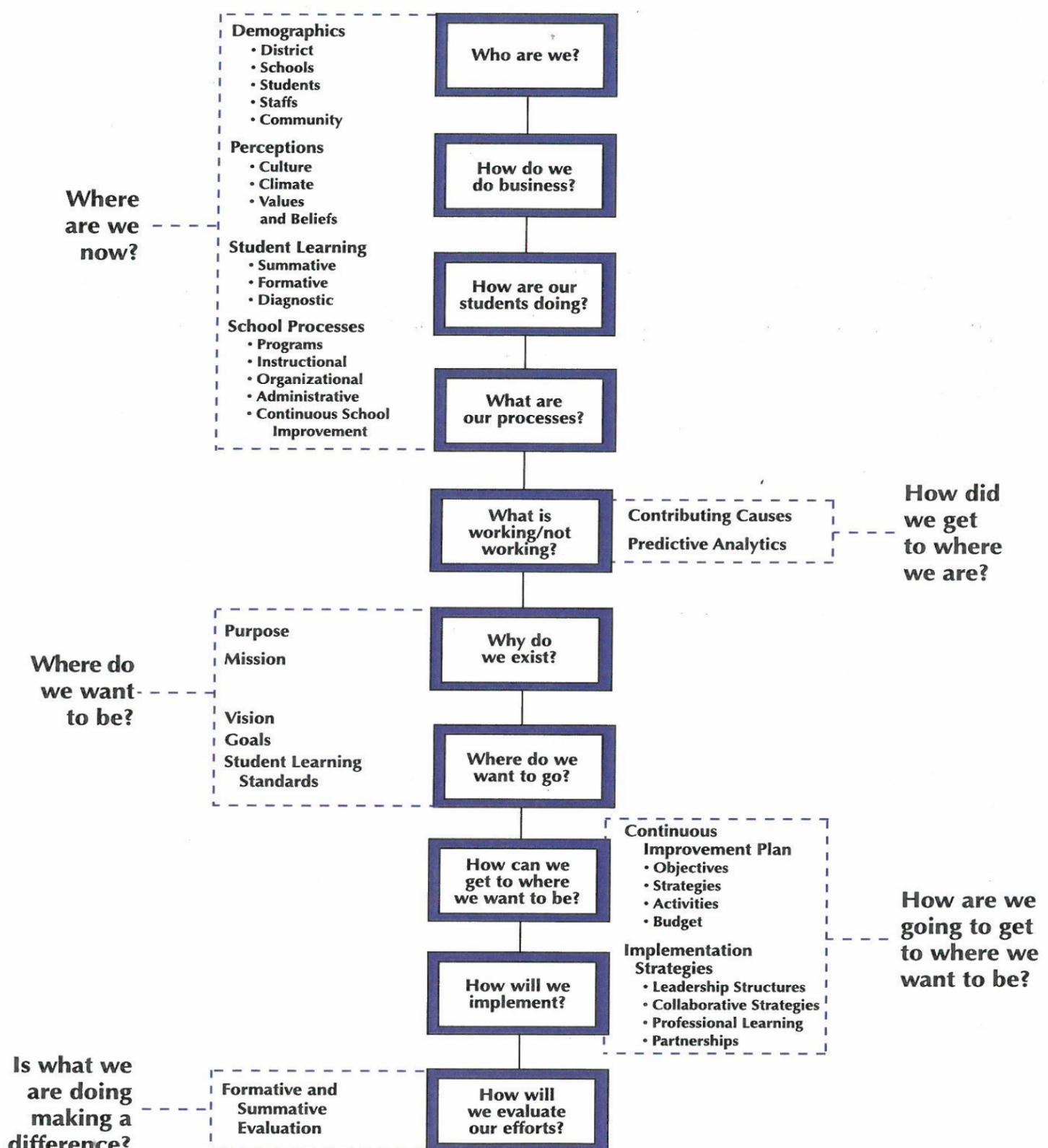
The Continuous School Improvement Cycle, a research-based framework centered on data analysis, lays the ground work for the accreditation process. Continuous School Improvement Planning occurs in response to data analysis and the identified needs of the school program,

with the goal of creating a shared vision which is implemented in a Continuous School Improvement Plan. Most importantly, the Adventist philosophy of education is the lens through which program change is managed and evaluated.

The Continuous School Improvement Framework is designed to help schools address and answer five key questions through staff engagement and collaboration:

- Where are we now?
- How did we get to where we are?
- Where do we want to be?
- How are we going to get to where we want to be?
- Is what we are doing making a difference?

Figure 2.1
CONTINUOUS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK



PURPOSE

- **Education Sabbaths**—Some promotional materials are being developed for churches. Ordering details will be shared in the spring.
- **Adventist Heritage**—An Adventist Heritage Box is available from the EGW Estate. The resources can be used as supplementary materials for the elementary Encounter units on Adventist heritage. <http://www.southwesternadventist.org/education/resources/>

PLAN

- **Pathways 2.0**—Implementation is scheduled for the 2019-2020 school year. A webinar has been taped for professional development (<https://vimeo.com/225198182>).
- **STEM Grants**—Not too early to apply for next year. <http://www.southwesternunion.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Robotics-Challenge.pdf>
- **Versacare Grants**—These grants are available for technology; there is a December 31 deadline each year. <https://versacare.org/application/guidelines/>
- **Technology Resources:** www.multigradeclassroom.com Explore this new resource for NAD classrooms. This is a one-stop shop for resources developed specifically for our multi-grade classrooms.

<http://adventisteducation.org/> The NAD Education website has been redesigned with a fresh, new look. The site is developed to inform others about our system, while at the same time serves as a resource repository for our educators.

<https://sites.google.com/view/arduino300> Check out this site about arguing robotics.

<https://sites.google.com/burtonacademy.org/makerspaceonanybudget/> Here is a link to a site about Makerspace items, including Ozobots.

PRACTICE

- **Small Schools Workshop**—Scheduled for July 8-11, 2019. If you teach in a small school (3 teachers or less) and would like to be considered as a presenter, please let us know. Registration details will be published in the spring newsletter.
- **NAD Teachers' Convention**—Conventions are transitioning to a five-year rotation; the next convention is scheduled for August 2023.
- **NAD Convention Bags**—NAD has extra convention bags for \$5 each.
- **ALC Coaching Course**—Coaches from all schools involved in interscholastic sports are required to take this course. Certificates of completion are to be sent to the Union registrar.
- **SWUC Webinar Series**—Connection information will be sent prior to each webinar.

February 7, 4 pm central—Measuring What We Do In Schools: Digging Deeper Into Process Measurement

March 7, 4 pm central—Using Data to Inform a Shared Vision for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Environment

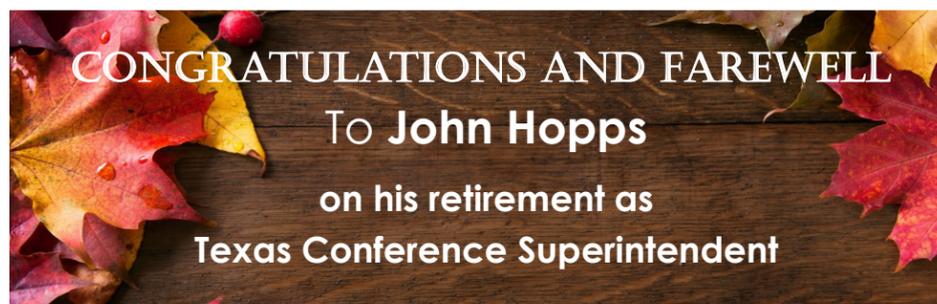
April 11, 4 pm central—Supporting Implementation of Shared Vision, Then Evaluating Your Improvement Efforts

PRODUCT

- **Data Rollup Q/A:** Where do the statistics come from that are found on the Adventist Education website?

This information comes from our schools' Opening Reports.

- Statistics can be found on the Adventist Education website: <http://adventisteducation.org/stat.html>.
- Please see the **2018-19 Data Card** that is attached. Let us know if you would like a supply of these for your school or church.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Seventh-day Adventist Church
SOUTHWESTERN UNION