

in the
Southwestern Union Conference

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Office of Education

Dear Colleagues,

The North American Division has developed a new set of standards for accreditation of SDA schools. You will begin to see them referenced frequently in our correspondence and practice. In particular, they will form the framework for Continuous School Improvement Planning as well as supports for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Practices. Please become familiar with the standards so we have a shared language for teaching and learning on our Journey to Excellence.

STANDARDS

I: PURPOSE

1. **Philosophy and Mission**—The philosophy, mission, and vision statements are learner-centered and give direction to the school's program, and are developed and approved cooperatively by the administration, staff, and school board and reflect the Seventh-day Adventist worldview, core values, and educational philosophy.

II: PLAN

2. **Curriculum**—The curriculum is the core of the educational program providing for the spiritual, mental, physical, social, and emotional development of learners and preparing them for this world and for eternity.
3. **Instruction**—The instructional program is aligned with curriculum design and assessment practices and provides for a variety of learning experiences, consistent with the school's philosophy, goals, and standards and actively engages learners in learning.
4. **Assessment**—Assessment data informs changes in curriculum and instruction to support learning.
5. **School Environment**—The school environment is designed and maintained to promote student learning and to support the school's mission and goals.

III: PRACTICE

6. **Sustainable Leadership**—Administration and school board ensure the effective and successful operation of the school to promote learner success and well-being.
7. **Professional Learning**—Administration and faculty collaborate to develop and implement professional learning opportunities to meet the needs of each learner and enhance the ongoing growth and development of school personnel.
8. **Communication and Collaboration**—Communication and collaboration among the school, constituency, and community are essential to providing an effective educational program for learners.

IV: PRODUCT

9. **School Improvement**—The accreditation process assists a school in appraising the total program to determine the level to which the purposes and functions outlined in its statement of philosophy and goals for student learning are accomplished as well as in providing the basis for action plans to address areas needing improvement.

Regards,

Carol Campbell

PURPOSE

Education Sabbath—An Education Sabbath is typically scheduled for March or April in constituent churches. Collaborate with your pastor(s) in planning one for your church.

NAD Teachers' Convention—The third issue of the SWUC newsletter (*Education Matters*) for this school year will be dedicated to convention information. Breakout proposals may now be submitted on the NAD website--<http://www.2018teachersconvention.com/>.



PLAN

ByDesign Demo Labs—The demo labs developed by PUC are available on the *ByDesign* Lab website (<http://www.bydesignlabs.org/home/content/video-tutorials-website>.) These files are also located on the NAD Dashboard under Files.

BRIDGE—Available K-2 units can be found on <http://www.adventistedge.org/article/481/ministries/education/adventist-edge/educators/elementary-education/curriculum-instruction/k-2-multi-grade-bridge>.

Elementary Encounter Kits—Plan ahead to purchase the Elementary Encounter Resource Kits from Advent Source. Schools will need to purchase all three kits: Grades 1-4--\$795, Grades 5-8--\$815, Grades 1-8--\$495.

Pathways 2.0—Online professional learning is scheduled for spring 2019, with implementation of the program in 2019-20.

NAD Online Subscription Resources—Place orders between June 1 and September 16 on <https://adventist-education.myshopify.com/>.

SWUC STEM Grants—Access the Robotics Challenge Application on <http://www.southwesternadventist.org/education>.

PRACTICE

Revised School Board Manual—http://adventisteducation.org/resources/administration/handbooks_manuals. Paper copies available from Advent Source.

ALC—Check out the new learning modules on the Adventist Learning Community for CEU credits on <https://www.adventistlearningcommunity.com/>. New courses of particular interest include: School Safety, Sexual Abuse, and 1-to-1 Devices.

Learning A-Z Webinar—Register for the April 10 webinar on <http://tdec.nadeducation.org/professional-development/webinars/>.

SWAU Distance Ed Registration—Summer Registration is April 2 to May 18; Fall Registration is April 9 to August 31. No exceptions!

PRODUCT

SWUC Data Cards—Available from SWUC Office of Education, featuring current Union education stats. Can be used for marketing, bulletin inserts, etc.

NAD Leadership Standards, Teacher Standards—<http://adventisteducation.org/resources/administration/standards>

STAY TUNED for these happenings in 2018:

SWUC Continuous School Improvement Plan
SWUC Education Website
SWUC Webinar Series