



POLICY 5.2

SELF-STUDY AND ACCREDITATION PROTOCOLS

To ensure that the diverse, developmental needs of MSA-CESS accredited and candidate institutions are met effectively, the Commissions on Elementary Secondary Schools shall provide a choice of self-study and accreditation protocols. Such protocols may be produced by the Commissions' staff, by other accrediting/evaluation agencies, or by commercial publishing organizations.

- 5.2.1. Approval of Self-Study and Accreditation Protocols. The Commissions shall approve, after review and analysis by the Commissions' staff and the Commissions' Membership and Accreditation Committees, all self-study and accreditation protocols authorized for use by institutions seeking MSA-CESS accreditation and reaccreditation.
- 5.2.2. List of Approved Self-Study and Accreditation Protocols. The Commissions shall maintain and make available to institutions a current list of approved self-study and accreditation protocols.
- 5.2.3. Criteria for Approving Self-Study and Accreditation Protocols. The Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools may approve self-study and accreditation protocols that meet the following criteria:
- a. well-aligned and consistent with the MSA-CESS Standards for Accreditation;
 - b. meet the needs of accredited and candidate institutions;
 - c. of high quality, well-written, and effectively designed;
 - d. encourage schools, school systems, and other education institutions to base self-study and accreditation efforts on accomplishing the purposes and functions outlined in their own statements of philosophy/mission/beliefs; and
 - e. promote continuous growth and improvement in student performance and/or organizational capacity.
- 5.2.4. MSA-CESS-Developed Self-Study and Accreditation Protocols.

5.2.5.1. Protection of Protocols. Copyrights shall be maintained on self-study and accreditation protocols developed and approved by the Commissions.

5.2.5.2. Revision of Self-Study and Accreditation Protocols. Self-study and accreditation protocols developed by the Commissions shall be reviewed and revised regularly to reflect current practices in education and accreditation and the needs of accredited and candidate institutions.

Action	Date	Notes
Initial Adoption by MSA-CSS	April 15, 2011	
Initial Adoption by MSA-CES	October 28, 2011	
Revisions		