

**Excellence Christian School (ECS)  
MSA Accreditation Process**

**Overview**

1. *Past: The beginning of the process...*
2. *Present: Where ECS is now...*
3. *Future: What is next...*



**Past**

- January - May 2009 ECS School Board worked collaboratively with Administration to compile artifacts\* and evidence for the MSA Application
- May 2009- MSA Accreditation Application was submitted
- July 2009 - ECS School Board and Administration participated in working summer sessions to delegate responsibilities for the accreditation process\*\*
- October 2009- Application was approved by MSA
- December 2009- MSA 1 day visit and approval for Excellence by Design Protocol
- January 2010 - Candidacy Offer\*\*\* and Acceptance
- March 2010 - Ms. Epps and Dr. Lee training at MSA office in Philadelphia
- April 2010 - Dr. Lee's visit to Snow Hill Elementary as accreditation validation team\*\*\*\* member

**Present**

- June 2010 - MSA planning teams develop Profile of the ECS Graduate and ECS Beliefs
- June 2010 - Dr. Lee completed the Profile/Context of ECS
- July 2010 - School Improvement Plan and Curriculum Cycle updates completed by Administrative Team
- July 2010 - MSA Planning Team Assignments for 2010-2011 SY updates
- July 2010 - ECS School Board working sessions to update Strategic Plan

**Future**

- August 2010 - MSA Planning Team working sessions
- October 2010 - Standards Surveys to be completed by all stakeholders
- December 2010 - Submit Objectives and collect baseline student achievement data
- January 2011- Action Plans submitted
- Spring 2011 - 3 Day MSA Host Visit
- Fall 2011- MSA Accreditation Approval

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- Q: What is accreditation?**  
*A: Accreditation serves to verify that institutions meet standards. By requiring protocol and procedures, you can be assured that any school that is accredited offers quality education.*
- Q: How long does accreditation process take?**  
*A: Normal turnaround time for accreditation after submitting the application is 2 - 3 years; however, our application was outstanding and put ECS ahead of the curve.*
- Q: What does accreditation do for ECS?**  
*A: The purpose of accreditation is to:*
  1. Use standards of evaluation to ensure quality education;
  2. Encourage institutions to improve quality of education;
  3. Ensure the accountability of educational institutions;
  4. Provide public confidence in educational institutions
- Q: How do parents get involved?**  
*A: Parent input and participation is a vital component of the accreditation process. Thanks to those parents who submitted their ECS Beliefs and Profile of the Graduate ideas in May, we hope to have more parental involvement in the fall.*
- Q: How long does accreditation last?**  
*A: Typically, once accreditation is earned, it is renewed on a seven-year cycle that involves an intensive self-study process conducted by the school, an on-site three-day visit by a team of professional educators, and on-site mid-point reviews in the form of a one-day, one-person visit. In some cases, accreditation is granted for five years, but the protocol is actually a ten-year cycle of activities*

\***Artifacts**- documents that the school has on file to support each of the 12 standards. They serve as proof or evidence that we are meeting each standard.  
**\*\*Accreditation Process** – A self study of the school to see where we have been, where we are going and how we will get there using the 12 standards of accreditation.  
**\*\*\*Candidacy Offer** – A letter from MSA stating that we are ready to proceed with final accreditation process.  
**\*\*\*\*Accreditation Validation Team** – Educators selected by MSA to serve as “judges” for other schools going through the accreditation process. These team members thoroughly serve as the eyes and ears of MSA in terms of ensuring that the school meets all of the standards for accreditation.