



G R O S S M O N T
C O L L E G E

2026 Accreditation Cycle

Dr Joan Ahrens, Accreditation Liaison Officer

Denise Schulmeyer, Faculty Accreditation Steering Committee Co-Chair

Academic Senate, October 2, 2023

Objectives for Today

- To inform you of the changes to the Accreditation process
- To share with you the timeline of our next Accreditation cycle
- To discuss ways in which you can become involved in the next cycle 😊
- To answer any questions you may have

Overview of ACCJC's Comprehensive Review Process



CLOSER LOOK: Two-Semester Peer Review

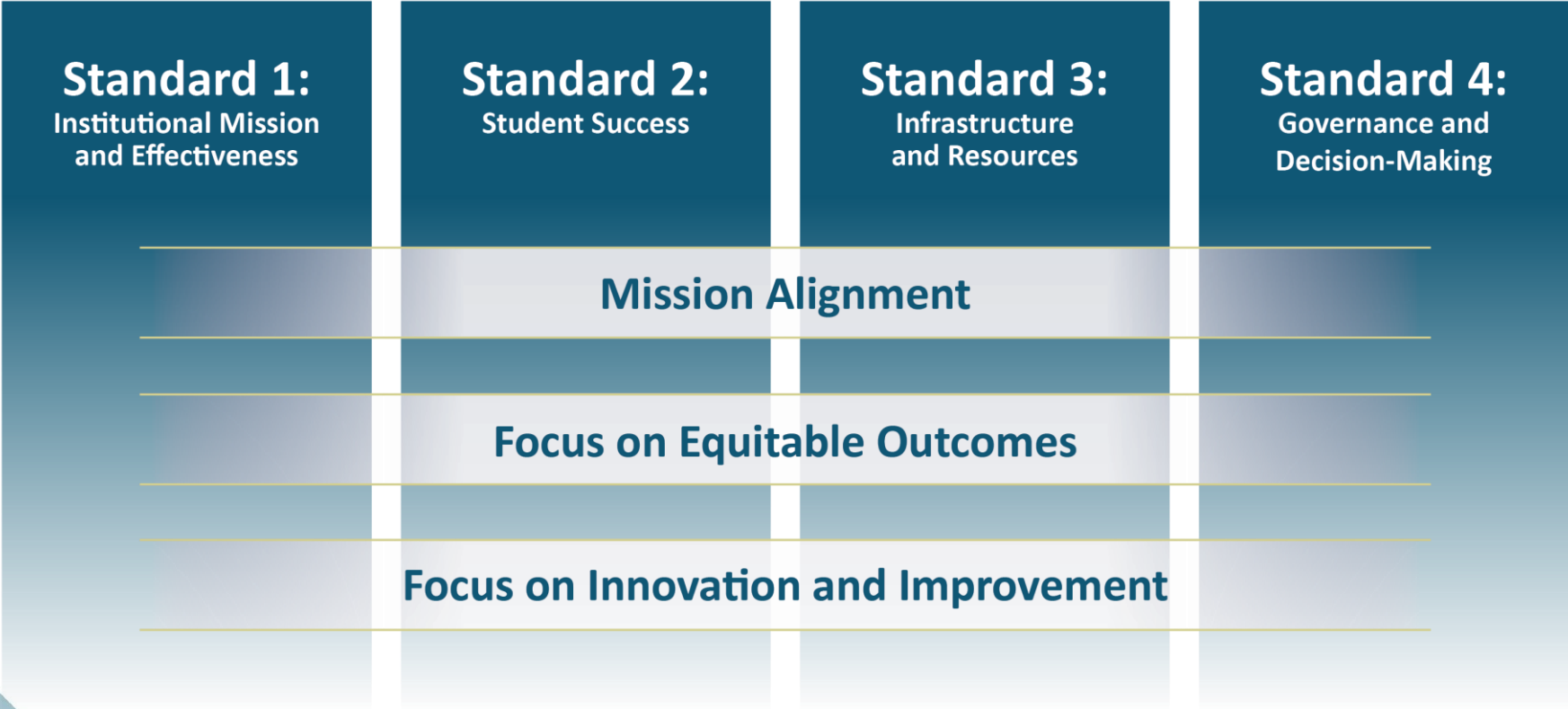


The self-evaluation is an opportunity



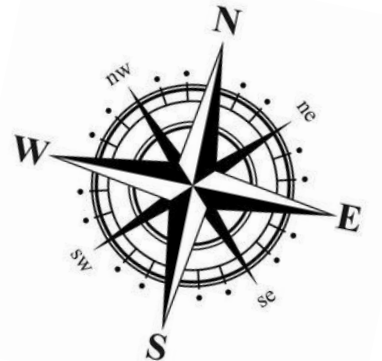
- **Reflect on our mission**
 - Whom do we serve?
 - How well do we serve them?
 - How do we know?
- **Share our story**
 - What are our success stories?
 - How are we advancing equitable outcomes?
 - Where are we learning and innovating?
- **Plan for our future**
 - How are our students' needs changing?
 - Where can we adapt and improve?
 - What is our vision for the next cycle?

New Standards and Philosophical Approach



Principles Guiding the New Standards

- Align with Commission's Eligibility Requirements, policies, and values
- Reflect current norms and practices within US higher education
- Focus on outcomes and improvement rather than processes
- Reflect the diversity of ACCJC member institutions
- Use clear language and minimize redundancies
- Balance accountability and improvement
- Emphasize equity and inclusion



Overview of Major Changes in the Standards

FROM	→	TO
Repetitive and siloed	→	Streamlined and holistic
“do you have a process”	→	“what are the results, and how do you use them”
Narrative required for everything	→	Some documentation provided via checklist
120 Standards (127 for multi-college districts)	→	30 Standards for all colleges

Reflecting on the Standards

For each Standard, consider:

1. What do we do to align with the Standard?
2. What are the results of these actions? How effectively do the actions support equitable student success? How do we know?
3. What did we learn?
4. What will we do differently as we move forward?
How does that learning inform our institutional plans and practices for action, improvement, and/or innovation?

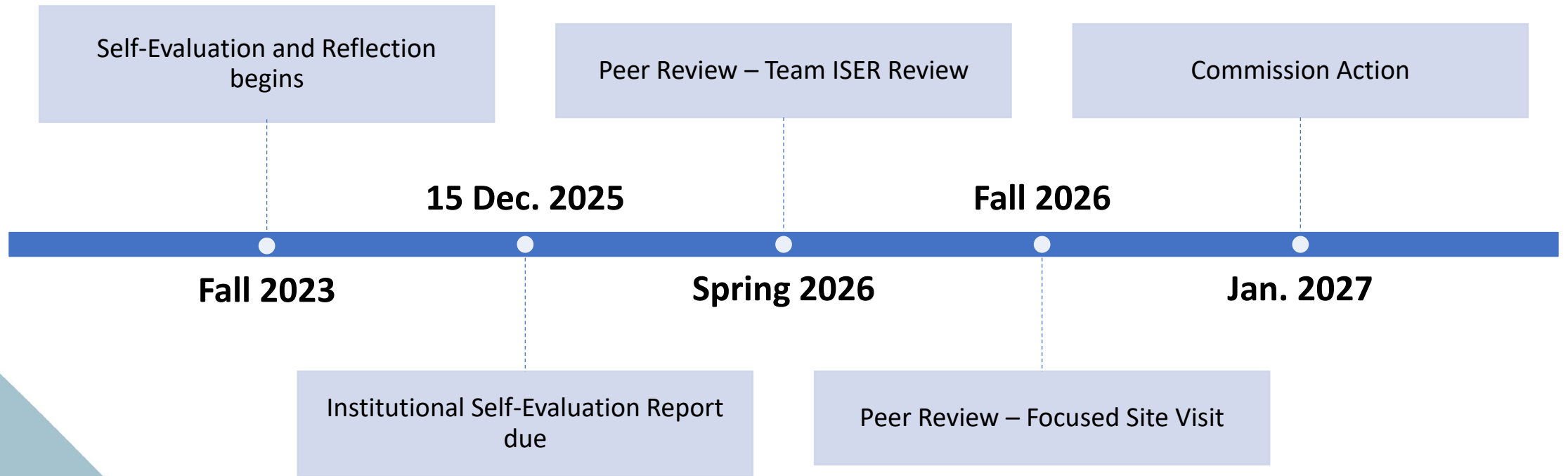


Evolving Expectations for Institutional Self-Evaluation Reports

New ISER Template (embedded instructions for each section)

Major Sections in the Self-Evaluation Report	Suggested Length
Forward to the Institutional Self-Evaluation	1 page
A. Introduction: Institutional Context	2-5 pages
B. Institutional Self-Evaluation of Alignment with the Accreditation Standards	60-70 pages
C. Required Documentation	(no narratives)
D. Appendices: 1 – Verification of Catalog Requirements 2 – Organizational Information 3 – Additional Approved Locations (if applicable)	(no narratives)

Timeline Overview



ACCJC assistance & support throughout the process



Questions???