



# First 100 Day Announcement

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# Keys To SACSCOC Future Success

- ▶ Students First, Always
- ▶ Leadership and Transparency
- ▶ Service with Accountability
- ▶ Having Stakeholders vs Building Shareholders

# *Commit to Communications*

## Issue

We must commit to faster and transparent communications.

## Actions

- ▶ Hire a Director of Public Information
- ▶ Conduct a communication audit (how do we communicate with our members?)
- ▶ More frequent updates from the President

# *Principles Review*

## **Issue**

Accusations of relevance and political messaging

## **Actions**

- ▶ Goal is to revise in 14-18 months launching in October
- ▶ The revision will include a focus on streamlining, differentiation, and the workforce

# Principles Review

## Actions

- ▶ *Principles* revision provides framework for process efficiency revisions
- ▶ We will make clear a stronger criteria, based on institutions' mission to provide a framework for Distinction Designations
- ▶ Bias review including state legislators and economic/workforce development

# Clarifying Our Commitment to ALL Institutions

## Issue

SACSCOC is seen as not meeting the needs of ALL institutions.

## Actions

- ▶ Review Board Membership
- ▶ Host R1 Summit

# Process Reviews

## Issue

Public perception in our processes are slow, redundant, and inefficient

## Actions

- ▶ Processes must be efficient, secure, and modern with continued affirmation of peer review
- ▶ Conduct Process Audit. The goal is to streamline processes for Reaffirmation, 5th Year, and SubChange

# Process Reviews

## Actions

- ▶ New Tools
  - ▶ Use of *secure* AI for both institutions and committees/staff
  - ▶ Move toward full use of Salesforce capabilities
- ▶ Focusing on Efficiency and Response
  - ▶ Review processes to identify specific ways to expedite response time
  - ▶ Review processes specific to efficiencies (including Board reviews)

## SubChange Review

- ▶ Currently, 19 of our 52 categories of SubChange are required by federal law/regulation
- ▶ SACSCOC staff is conducting a review of current categories, processes, and turnaround time.
- ▶ We are focused on determining relevance of all categories, especially those requiring visits, and determining appropriate levels of institutional reporting obligation (e.g. notification vs prospectus).

# SubChange Review

Beginning immediately, the following federally required SubChange will be approved directly by the SACSCOC President and staff.

We estimate this change will result in a *two to four week decrease in response time*.

- ▶ Competency-based Education by Course/Credit-based Approach - Institutional-level Approval
- ▶ Change Measure Progress to Completion
- ▶ Cooperative Academic Arrangement with Non-Title IV Entities - Approval
- ▶ Distance Education - Institutional-level Approval
- ▶ Method of Delivery-Approval
- ▶ New Program-Approval
- ▶ Program Length Change

# Sticks AND Carrots

## Issue

SACSCOC is seen only as a heavy-handed accountability hammer

## Actions

- ▶ Philosophically, we will keep our focus on keeping the standard and standing for high quality, move toward celebrating and helping institutions tell their own stories

# Sticks AND Carrots

## Actions

- ▶ End the practice of placing sanctioned institutions on rotating slides at the annual meeting
- ▶ Establish criteria to recognize excellence and growth
- ▶ Create Accreditation with Distinction Criteria
- ▶ Highlight the services SACSCOC provides

# Review QEP

## Issue

QEP commitment is mixed. Some of what I have heard is it does not meet its original intent, its “busywork”, it’s a hardship with little ROI especially for smaller institutions

## Actions

- ▶ For the period of *Principles* review, SACSCOC staff and institutions will study the QEP for relevance and evaluate if it is meeting the needs of today.
- ▶ Temporarily hold all institutions harmless from their participation in QEP during the study for at least the length of *Principles* revision.

# QEP Transition Document

Reaffirmation Class	Compliance Certification Due	Submission Options
2025 B	September 2024	Response Report: Response Report for a Recommendation for Standard 7.2 may be submitted to address non-compliance and opportunities for improvement identified by the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee. The SACSCOC Board may offer comment but will not request a Monitoring Report for weaknesses in the institution's Response: "Standard 7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan) is currently under a period of study. While institutions in the 2025B Reaffirmation Class are not required to complete a Quality Enhancement Plan, the following brief comments are provided to assist the institution in implementing its Quality Enhancement Plan should it choose to do so. These comments should not be construed as directives for the institution nor as a compliance determination."
		Response Report: The institution may elect not to respond to a Recommendation(s) for Standard 7.2. In place of a response, the institution should submit the following: "Standard 7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan) is currently under a period of study. Institutions in the 2025B Reaffirmation Class are not required to complete a Quality Enhancement Plan. The institution has elected not to respond to the recommendation provided by the On-Site Reaffirmation Committee." Note: If the institution's Response Report for Standard 7.2 was submitted prior to the study period announcement, the institution should contact its Vice President so that a revised document without the Standard 7.2 response can be uploaded by October 3, 2025.
2026 A	March 2025	On-Site Reaffirmation Committee: The institution may elect to retain the service of the QEP Lead Evaluator on the Committee. The Committee will review the QEP and provide an analysis and comments for strengthening the QEP but will not provide a review of compliance for Standard 7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan). The Committee will insert the following in the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee: "Standard 7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan) is currently under a period of study. While institutions in the 2026A Reaffirmation Class are not required to complete a Quality Enhancement Plan, the following brief comments are provided to assist the institution in implementing its Quality Enhancement Plan should it choose to do so. These comments should not be construed as directives for the institution nor as a compliance determination."
		On-Site Reaffirmation Committee: The institution may request removal of the QEP Lead Evaluator from the Committee. The Committee will not review the QEP and will insert the following in the Report of the Reaffirmation Committee: "Standard 7.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan) is currently under a period of study. Institutions in the 2026A Reaffirmation Class are not required to complete a Quality Enhancement Plan and the institution has elected not to submit one for review." Note: The institution remains responsible for any expenses already incurred.

## *Sandbox for Innovation*

- ▶ A place where institutions can submit experimental programs that would be pulled aside during a typical reaffirmation.
- ▶ Evaluated under modified accreditation requirements.
- ▶ Reduce regulatory barriers for promising new approaches while gathering data on their effectiveness.
- ▶ Timeline: Up to 3 years

## New Services

- ▶ Institute Affiliate member designations
- ▶ Expansion of membership and membership services
- ▶ Involving data analytics to maximize ROI for institutions
- ▶ Teams of 3 to support our most dire institutions

# Affiliate Membership

To become an Affiliate institution, an institution must:

- ▶ Accept the invitation of the SACSCOC President to become an Affiliate institution.
- ▶ Be in good standing (i.e., is not on Warning, Probation, or Probation Good Cause) at the time of voluntary resignation from SACSCOC membership.
- ▶ Provide documentation of accreditation in good standing with a U.S. Department of Education (USDE) recognized institutional accreditor.

## Benefits of Affiliate Status

- ▶ Maintained in SACSCOC membership communications
- ▶ Attendance at SACSCOC-sponsored events at the member rate
- ▶ Participation in SACSCOC-sponsored evaluator training opportunities

## Benefits of Affiliate Status

- ▶ Eligibility to serve on SACSCOC peer review committees
- ▶ Eligibility to use an accelerated pathway to restore SACSCOC as its primary institutional accreditor
- ▶ Reduced SACSCOC Affiliate Application for Membership fee, waived pre-applicant workshop registration fee, and waived advisory visit fee

## How Do We Get This Done?

- ▶ Dream Big, Dream Bold
- ▶ We will not subscribe to business as usual
- ▶ Embrace leadership responsibilities and autonomy to get stuff done
- ▶ Suspend strategic plan to redefine working groups identified priorities

## Additional Supports

- ▶ Resources listed on <https://sacscoc.org/100-day-package/>
  - ▶ Webinar recording
  - ▶ PowerPoint Presentation
  - ▶ Frequently Asked Questions
  - ▶ QEP Transition Document
- ▶ For more questions on the 100 Day Package, email [100days@sacscoc.org](mailto:100days@sacscoc.org).

## Shameless Plug

- ▶ **Charting a Bold Vision for Transfer and Learning Mobility: A Conversation with MSCHE, SACSCOC, and WSCUC Presidents**
- ▶ **Date/Time:** Monday, October 6, 2025 / 2:30 - 3:30 pm ET
- ▶ **Registration Link:** [https://msche-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZMh6KFdEQkKZdTgFIPVorA](https://msche-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZMh6KFdEQkKZdTgFIPVorA)

Welcome to the *NEW* SACSCOC!

