



October 20, 2011

INTRODUCTION

Following, you will find a summary of the Quality Assurance Review. The complete Quality Assurance Review and Accreditation Progress Report will be placed on our webpage as soon as it is made official and translated. This summary contains all of the most pertinent points of the report.

We are provided abundant information in this summary, commendations, identification of strengths, articulation of opportunities, and required actions; while we are given two years to report our response to the required actions, we have already begun addressing these issues.

Joe Houston Walker
Director
Colegio Internacional de Carabobo

Required Action 1

Required Action:

Consolidate the presently fragmented assessment system and create a more systemic plan which will facilitate the use of student achievement data to inform instruction and curriculum development and that will disseminate the data to all stakeholder groups.

Rationale:

A school's capacities to collect, evaluate, and utilize student achievement data to inform instruction, curriculum development, and school improvement initiatives are critical to maintaining a quality educational program.

Required Action 2

Required Action:

Implement a systematic, continuous improvement system that drives student growth through the structured data- based monitoring of progress towards identified goals and the alignment of improvement and professional development plans. Progress should be celebrated and reported to shareholders.

Rationale:

A systematic approach to school improvement will ensure more effective targeting of resources and allow a more tangible and authentic celebration of student and school achievement.

Commendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team commends the school for the following strengths and accomplishments. While additional strengths are noted in the detailed review of each standard that appears later in this report, the commendations listed below are the strengths that the team believes are most deserving of being highlighted.

Commendation 1

Commendation Statement:

The Colegio Internacional de Carabobo (CIC) mission and vision are well-known to stakeholder groups and are universally supported. By participating in the CIC tradition of student community service and other notable CIC programs, students live the mission.

Rationale:

The institution is known for the graduates it produces, and character is one of the most sought-after attributes for young people entering into the world of work, and for those leaders of the future able to gain the trust of their followers and unite people in concerted efforts to solve vexing and difficult world problems.

Commendation 2

Commendation Statement:

Under sometimes difficult circumstances, CIC has been able to attract and retain a resilient, adaptable, supportive, caring, cooperative group of professional and support staff and board members, instilling in them the CIC philosophy, and creating a powerfully positive school atmosphere, keeping alive a long tradition of positive presence educating young men and women of character.

Rationale:

Keeping the CIC educational tradition alive depends on attracting and retaining new generations of quality staff members.

Commendation 3

Commendation Statement:

The trusting, respectful, and very productive relationship between members of the board and school leadership team promotes a culture of collaboration that facilitates effective decision making, and therefore has allowed the school to create and retain a positive school climate and the continuance of a quality educational program over an extended period of time.

Rationale:

Effective school leadership provides direction and creates the organizational conditions to facilitate school effectiveness.

Commendation 4

Commendation Statement:

The CIC student body exhibits a powerful voice and an admirable service-based character that testifies to the school's success in achieving its mission. Graduating students are equipped to be outstanding citizens with a strong moral and ethical foundation.

Rationale:

Schools which encourage and foster positive character trait development in students, create a culture of community service, and facilitate student leadership, graduate individuals who are prepared to make significant and constructive contributions to society.

Review of AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools

Standard 1: Vision and Purpose

Standard: The school establishes and communicates a shared purpose and direction for improving the performance of students and the effectiveness of the school.

Strengths - The team noted the following successful practices deserving of recognition:

- CIC vision and mission statements were developed collaboratively with major groups of stakeholders and continue to be dynamic drivers of school improvement efforts.
- CIC vision and mission statements are communicated consistently and persistently through a variety of channels and are well known by the school community.
- Major stakeholders (parents, staff members, students, board members) know and cherish the mission of the school to develop young men and women of character.
- Student community service, "CIC Stands Up", and anti-bullying campaigns help achieve the school's mission of developing men and women of character.

Opportunities - The team offers the following opportunities for improvement for consideration by the school:

- Conduct more frequent review of vision and mission statements, if only to reaffirm the continued validity and power of the current statements.
- Develop measurements in the school improvement plan which addresses the meaning of phrases such as "recognized as a model Latin American International School" and "develop young men and women of character."
- Define indicators in the school improvement plan which addresses the expectations for student learning and that would be consistent with an "individualized, balanced academic and co-curricular program."

Finding: Colegio Internacional de Carabobo has earned the overall assessment level of "Highly Functional" and has met this standard for accreditation.

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership

Standard: The school provides governance and leadership that promote student performance and school effectiveness.

Strengths - The team noted the following successful practices deserving of recognition:

- Extremely high levels of trust and respect between all members of the governance body and leadership team facilitate decision making about school improvement initiatives and other important challenges facing the school.
- Numerous leadership opportunities provide stakeholders with meaningful roles in the school's decision making process.
- Abundant extra-curricular athletic and non-athletic opportunities exist for students. The high level of participation validate the programs are meeting the needs and desires of students.

Opportunities - The team offers the following opportunities for improvement for consideration by the school:

- Monitor the transition from the presently fragmented assessment system to a systemic plan which will improve the use of student achievement data to inform instruction,

- curriculum development, and school improvement.
- Review and refine the succession plan for members of the governance body to ensure the exemplary stewardship evident during the past two decades can continue.

Finding: Colegio Internacional de Carabobo has earned the overall assessment level of "Highly Functional" and has met this standard for accreditation.

Standard 3: Teaching and Learning

Standard: The school provides research-based curriculum and instructional methods that facilitate achievement for all students.

Strengths - The team noted the following successful practices deserving of recognition:

- The culture and the climate of the learning environment are positive and support students through all phases of developmental and academic growth.
- The school offers a wide variety of electives and co-curricular opportunities so students can explore interests.

Opportunities - The team offers the following opportunities for improvement for consideration by the school:

- Continue to develop a fully integrated curriculum by aligning standards, instruction, and assessment.
- Increase teacher knowledge of high level instructional strategies to increase student's understanding and skill.

Finding: Colegio Internacional de Carabobo has earned the overall assessment level of "Operational" and has met this standard for accreditation.

Standard 4: Documenting and Using Results

Standard: The school enacts a comprehensive assessment system that monitors and documents performance and uses these results to improve student performance and school effectiveness.

Strengths - The team noted the following successful practices deserving of recognition:

- The school has recognized the need to promote collaboration and has identified multiple and varied opportunities for staff to gather together.
- The school administers multiple assessment instruments.

Opportunities - The team offers the following opportunities for improvement for consideration by the school:

- Engage in regular consultation of data and indicators and provide leadership, resources, and training in analyzing and disaggregating student data to implement change where it is needed and to sustain targeted efforts.
- Improve the effectiveness of the how assessment results are communicated to stakeholders.

Finding: Colegio Internacional de Carabobo has earned the overall assessment level of "Operational" and has met this standard for accreditation.

Standard 5: Resource and Support Systems

Standard: The school has the resources and services necessary to support its vision and purpose and to ensure achievement for all students.

Strengths - The team noted the following successful practices deserving of recognition:

- The school has promoted from the ranks of teachers and mid-level administrators to form a stable, dedicated and cohesive administrative team and school leadership team whose members are highly identified with the institution.
- CIC assigns financial resources to support ongoing programs and school improvement initiatives.
- Human resources department functions (hiring, induction, motivation and retention of well-qualified staff members) are highly functional and have provided a staff of professional educators and support personnel dedicated to excellence in the performance of their duties and willing to take on additional responsibilities and assignments.
- CIC has a beautiful, well-maintained campus with well-equipped facilities.
- Classrooms have recently been air conditioned, contributing to conditions for optimal learning environments.
- CIC is recognized by important U.S. and international universities as a model international school with a balanced academic and co-curricular program, judging by its strong record of college placement of CIC graduates.

Opportunities - The team offers the following opportunities for improvement for consideration by the school:

- Align professional development with school improvement goals.

Finding: Colegio Internacional de Carabobo has earned the overall assessment level of "Highly Functional" and has met this standard for accreditation.

Standard 6: Stakeholder Communications and Relationships

Standard: The school fosters effective communications and relationships with and among its stakeholders.

Strengths - The team noted the following successful practices deserving of recognition:

- Skyward's online grading function ensures timely feedback to students and parents and permits potential early detection and intervention for poor academic performance in middle and high school.
- Use of frequent electronic and printed communications, in both English and Spanish, ensures effective communication between stakeholders, an open culture of communication within the faculty, and the increased focus on, and availability of, collaborative spaces for teaching teams.

Opportunities - The team offers the following opportunities for improvement for consideration by the school:

- Expand the use of the internet to communicate learning expectations, homework assignments and other course information to students and parents across the school.

- Directly communicate student performance data, survey results and learning expectations to all stakeholders.

Finding: Colegio Internacional de Carabobo has earned the overall assessment level of "Operational" and has met this standard for accreditation.

Standard 7: Commitment to Continuous Improvement

Standard: The school establishes, implements, and monitors a continuous process of improvement that focuses on student performance.

Strengths - The team noted the following successful practices deserving of recognition:

- Student performance data, from a diverse range of assessments and sources, evidences the school's success in recent years in promoting improved student achievement.

Opportunities - The team offers the following opportunities for improvement for consideration by the school:

- Systematize the school's continuous improvement process by identifying indicators for each goal area and ensuring a structured progress monitoring system that allows for fine tuning of plans and timely reporting to stakeholders.
- Ensure that the school's improvement goals are aligned to, and receive sufficient support from, the professional development plan.
- Develop the impressive work done already by the strategic planning group to include plans to deal with eventualities identified as being of both high probability and high impact.

Finding: Colegio Internacional de Carabobo has earned the overall assessment level of "Operational" and has met this standard for accreditation.

CONCLUSION:

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you learned a great deal from reading this report!

The SACS/AdvancED Quality Assurance Review team met with the faculty and staff at the conclusion of their visit. They explained that few schools receive such a glowing report. Due to our high quality, the QAR team felt that we could aspire to become a "School of Excellence". This qualification is provided to only 10/15% of the accredited schools in the United States and overseas.

We gladly take up this challenge, and hope to become a designated "School of Excellence" in the not too distant future.

Joe Houston Walker
Director
Colegio Internacional de Carabobo

