

July 27th , 2020

Dear Colleagues,

COVID-19 continues to shape day to day decisions for our Division. This past spring, accreditation teams worked together with their host schools/ECP's to continue AAA accreditations where possible; the hope was that things would become more manageable by this fall. The conditions remain uncertain and change from region to region is based on local response and transmission rates. When considering a visit, the students, staff and visiting team's safety and health are our main concerns.

The North American Division Education Department and AAA will continue working with the Union, local Conference, Committee Chair, and host school/ECP's to move accreditation forward. This will mean a variety of approaches are possible from extensions, fully virtual, hybrid or the traditional format based on a collaborative decision. If possible, the visiting team chair or local designee will conduct a one-day site visit. We will also work in collaboration with Unions and Conferences for elementary and jr. academy accreditations and extensions.

If the situation stabilizes, AAA may introduce the one-day site visit for all visits; or begin the shift to an expanded onsite visit under this new blended approach.

On July 27th, 2020 NADCOA (North American Division Commission on Accreditation) voted the following waiver statements to affirm the intentions of the above content:

- a. Distance Learning*
 - i. Temporarily waive for the 2019/2020 and 2020-2021 school year the application for *Substantive Change* in reference to distance learning for institutions working to accommodate students whose enrollment is otherwise interrupted as a result of COVID-19.
 - ii. To support institutions and to align with Middle States Association guidance, the Adventist Accreditation Association acts to temporarily waive the substantive change requirements for distance education for institutions not approved to offer this alternative delivery method.
- b. Accreditation Visit Flexibility
 - i. Temporarily waive for the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school year on-site visits required in the Commission's *Accreditation Review Cycle and*

Monitoring Policy and Procedures in support of virtual visits in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Virtual visits will not be allowed for those institutions under circumstances that require on-site review such as applicant institutions, institutions on probation, and institutions with concerns that warrant on-site review.

*For this instance DL refers to virtual learning under special circumstances due to COVID.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at stephenbralley@nadadventist.org.

God bless and keep you!

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Stephen Bralley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

H. Stephen Bralley
Director of Secondary Education
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists