



**GISSV** German International School  
of Silicon Valley

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### WASC Accreditation

In addition to being officially recognized by the German government as German School of Excellency, the GISSV is honored to have received accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

WASC accreditation recognizes schools “that meet an acceptable level of quality, in accordance with established, research-based WASC criteria”. The accreditation by WASC attests that the GISSV is a reliable institution of learning, and reassures parents that the school’s mission is being accomplished through an ambitious didactic program. It also reflects the consistency of GISSV’s program, which is created to meet the needs of families looking for a high quality bilingual education and that its focus lies on student learning.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is among the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC-CIHE), the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) one of six official, regional academic associations in the United States that accredits universities, colleges, junior colleges, as well as K-12 schools.

WASC reviews institutions regarding to their commitment to core principles called Institutional Capacity and Educational Effectiveness. To become and remain accredited, each institution is expected to demonstrate that it is committed to developing and sustaining Institutional Capacity and Educational Effectiveness. With respect to Institutional Capacity, WASC expects an institution to function with clear purposes, high levels of institutional integrity, fiscal stability, and organizational structures to fulfill its purposes. Regarding Educational Effectiveness, WASC looks for evidence of clear and appropriate educational objectives and design at the institutional and program level. WASC also expects institutions to employ processes of review, including the collection and use of data that assures delivery of programs and learner accomplishments at a level of performance appropriate for the degree or certificate awarded.

By meeting the strict accreditation requirements of WASC, the GISSV received full accreditation for a six-year term in the spring of 2012 (the longest accreditation term possible), which will be followed by a self-study the following year. The accreditation process was first initiated in September of 2007. A visit by a WASC evaluating

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committee followed later that month, after which GISSV received the “Initial Accreditation” for three years, the highest accreditation level available at that point in the process.

The next step toward final accreditation by WASC was a rigorous self-study, which provided the GISSV with important information to help the school continue to foster educational excellence within the context of its mission and philosophy, in which the GISSV has committed itself to ensuring students reach their full academic potential in a nurturing environment that fosters critical and imaginative thinking, a passion for lifelong learning and an appreciation for cultural diversity.

The final report that GISSV received after the inspection highlights a persuasive list of academic strengths. Quotes from the report include:

- “The three guiding principles of “differentiated, global, united” [...] result in increased achievement of the students both academically and socially. “
- “The entire school community is committed to having the best school possible.”
- “Parents are delighted that their students are having truly bilingual education that prepares each student for admission to the university of his/her choice. “
- “The number one factor that will support school improvement is the motivation of the staff to provide the best education for students. “

The WASC accreditation conveys that families can trust in GISSV’s mission, and educational goals.

To learn more about WASC and the accreditation process for K-12 schools, please see the following link [www.acswasc.org](http://www.acswasc.org).

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