

# **PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM RELATIONS WITH STATE EDUCATION AGENCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACCREDITATION**

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## **1. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES**

The state accreditation program for elementary schools has two classification categories: accredited and non-accredited. An accreditation rating continues from year to year unless evaluation data, the annual report, and on-site visits justify a change in rating.

## **2. RATINGS**

Within the accredited classification are the following ratings:

- A. Fully Approved: the school is in compliance with minimum standards.
- B. Approved with Comments: one or two deviations from the standards have appeared for the first time or there are deviations of a minor nature;
- C. Approval with Advice: the school deviates substantially from one or more standards or no observable effort has been made in the second year to correct deviations from a standard upon which comment was previously made;
- D. Approved with Warning: a serious deviation from one or more standards exists. A school may be dropped from full approved to warned when, in the opinion of the state committee, the violation is such that it shall not be allowed to persist beyond the current year. If the state committee recommends a warned status, the State Elementary Accreditation Committee recommends the violation, a special meeting is held with local school officials prior to making a final recommendation. Schools on warned status may be dropped to a non-accredited status unless significant progress toward overcoming deviations is shown on the next report. An accredited school may not be dropped to a non-accredited school status unless there is justification for the exception.

## **3. DEVIATIONS FROM STANDARDS**

Deviations from accreditation standards because of hardship, for the purposes of pilot programs and experimentation, or for other reasons may be approved upon proper application to the State Elementary Accreditation Committee.

## **4. ANNUAL REPORT**

All accredited elementary schools shall submit an annual accreditation report to the Utah State Office of Education each fall.

## **5. ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES**

The procedures for elementary school accreditation are as follows:

- A. Application for accreditation is voluntary;
- B. A school planning for accreditation must submit a formal application to the USOE;
- C. School personnel may request the state specialist for accreditation to meet with them in

an orientation session to discuss accreditation standards and evaluation procedures;

D. A school must complete a self-evaluation. The school may use one of the following documents for its self-evaluation or other means approved by the State Elementary Accreditation Committee;

1. Evaluation Criteria for Elementary Schools in Utah, Utah State Board of Education;
2. Elementary School Evaluative Criteria, National Study of School Evaluation.

## **6. APPLYING FOR ACCREDITATION**

Any elementary school in the Tintic School District wishing to apply for accreditation will need to obtain further documents for meeting criteria from the Utah State Office of Education. Prior approval by the Tintic Board is required.

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