

# **Snow Canyon Middle School Accreditation Report Summary**

Snow Canyon Middle School has received accredited status for the next five years. This status ensures that the credit earned by students at SCMS will be recognized and accepted at other schools across the country and the world. In February 2016, an external accreditation team visited SCMS to review our self-study process and evaluate our school. This team submitted a report of their findings which included “Powerful Practices” (strengths they found in the school) and “Improvement Priorities” (areas that the school needs to improve).

The information listed below is a summary of their evaluation and recommendations.

The visiting team evaluated SCMS using five standards with multiple indicators in each standard. SCMS rated above the national average ratings in 20 of the 31 standard indicators evaluated. The standards, indicators and results are as follows:

**Standard 1 – Purpose and Direction.** The school maintains and communicates a purpose and direction that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

SCMS rated above the national average in 2 out of 3 indicators.

**Standard 2 – Governance and Leadership.** The school operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and school effectiveness.

SCMS rated above the national average in 6 out of 6 indicators.

**Standard 3 – Teacher and Assessing for Learning.** The school’s curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning.

SCMS rated above the national average in 7 out of 12 indicators.

**Standard 4 – Resources and Support Systems.** The school has resources and provides services that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

SCMS rated above the national average in 4 out of 5 indicators.

**Standard 5 – Using Results for Continuous Improvement.** The school implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and school effectiveness and used the results to guide continuous improvement.

SCMS rated above the national average 1 of 5 indicators.

SCMS was commended for 3 “Powerful Practices” (strengths of the school) in areas where our school rated significantly higher than the national average. These “Powerful Practices” are as follows:

- 1. The processes and policies for mentoring, coaching and induction of Early-Year Educators are exemplary.**
- 2. SCMS engages families in meaningful ways in their children’s education and keeps them informed of their children’s learning progress.**
- 3. The school provides and coordinates learning support services to meet the unique learning needs of students.**

SCMS was given 3 “Improvement Priorities” (areas where we must improve) in areas where our school rated significantly lower than the national average. These “Improvement Priorities” are as follows:

- 1. Develop and foster a shared culture and vision among the entire school of what effective student centered learning and student engagement constitutes, and how teachers can develop such an environment in their classrooms. Increase student engagement percentage in classrooms by implementing the common vision indicated above.**
- 2. Develop and implement a grading and reporting system that is based on clearly defined criteria that represent the attainment of content knowledge and skills and are consistent across grade levels and courses.**
- 3. Develop and implement a program in which the professional and support staff are trained in the evaluation, interpretation, and use of data that is analyzed from a range of sources, including comparison and trend data about student learning, instruction, program evaluation and organizational conditions.**

In addition to the three “Improvement Priorities” recommended by the visiting team. Snow Canyon Middle School had already identified three areas in an action plan that was included in our self-evaluation. Those three improvements were as follows:

- 1. Develop and Refine our tier one teaching and learning processes.** (Tier one teaching and learning refers to the initial instruction and learning activities that happen in the classroom for every student.
- 2. Develop and refine the intervention/advisory program.** (We have seen some tremendous results from This program, but also feel there is still room for improvement of the program in many areas).
- 3. Improve our communication with parents about student progress** (Although we were commended in this area by the visiting team, based on our initial surveys and feedback from parents, this is an area where we can still improve).

