

Comparing Viability Studies and Accreditation

Viability

- Short-term study (1-2 team members, 1-2 days) at the school's request.
- Report is free; school covers travel/lodging.
- School sets visit content; focuses on a specific need or program.
- Final report: 6-10 pages or shorter.
- Team conducts pre-visit interviews to develop an action plan.
- No school accountability for follow-through; one-time visit.

- Defined time frame
- Team of assigned experts
- School covers travel/lodging costs
- School-driven visit content
- Evaluation of school programs and effectiveness
- Final report with findings and recommendations
- School prepares materials and hosts the team
- Goal is to assess and improve practices

Accreditation

- 12-18 month self-study following a rigorous protocol.
- 3-5 team members for a 3.5-day visit.
- School pays accreditation fee plus team travel/lodging.
- Compliance with 12 CEASD Standards; evaluates entire school.
- Final report: 25-35 pages.
- Self-study submitted 6-8 weeks before visit.
- Goal: compliance and accreditation; follow-up required.
- Reaccreditation every five years.