

2011-2016 NAD Education Report Card

BY LARRY BLACKMER, CAROL CAMPBELL,
ARNE NIELSEN, AND DAVENIA LEA

THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT CARD IS TO DESCRIBE THE STATUS OF EDUCATION IN THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION EARLY CHILDHOOD THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.



AT A GLANCE

	EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS/PROGRAMS	BIRTH-AGE 4 CHILDREN	K-12 SCHOOLS	K-12 STUDENTS	COLLEGES/ UNIVERSITIES	COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
2015-2016	196	5,891	803	52,820	13	24,469
2014-2015	192	7,350	800	51,336	13	21,177
2013-2014			822	51,560	13	21,684
2012-2013			832	53,257	13	22,491
2011-2012			837	51,866	13	21,747



Adventist Education
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

STANDARDS

STANDARD 1—PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION

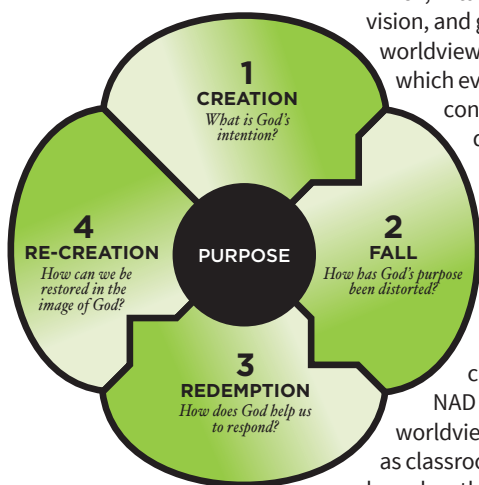
The philosophy and mission statement reflect the Seventh-day Adventist worldview and educational philosophy and give direction to the school's program, and are developed and approved cooperatively by the administration, staff, and school board.

COMMENTS

Adventist Worldview

A worldview serves as a conceptual tool or framework for perceiving and interpreting reality, which, in turn, informs the philosophy, mission/vision, and goals of an organization. The Adventist worldview accepts the Bible as the standard by which everything else is measured. Four key concepts (with accompanying essential questions) emerge from a biblical worldview that can be used as a lens for the Adventist curriculum development process: *CREATION* (What is God's intention?), *FALL* (How has God's purpose been distorted?), *REDEMPTION* (How does God help us to respond?), and *RE-CREATION* (How can we be restored in the image of God?).

NAD is using this lens to make the Adventist worldview visible in student standards as well as classroom resources. Textbooks are selected based on their alignment with Adventist education standards; elementary Bible, language arts, and science textbooks are developed by NAD so the content intentionally makes the Adventist worldview visible to learners.



The BLUEPRINT

THE STORY OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION



Blueprint Film

The purpose is to not only make the Adventist worldview visible to students, but to share it with constituents and communities as well. The NAD Office of Education has collaborated with an award-winning independent film maker, Martin Doblmeier, to produce a one-hour film on Adventist education. The film was released in 2012 and has had rave reviews by audiences and families around the globe. This documentary-type film, "The Blueprint," has been shown on the Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) and PBS World; and it is estimated that 40-60 million people have had the opportunity to view it. Around Christmas 2014, the film was aired almost 800 times, in more than 75 markets within the USA, all within a two-week period! God has blessed the church with a Christian friend in Martin Doblmeier; his vision and determination to see this film succeed has been inspiring. God is using this project to share the Adventist philosophy of education and draw families into Adventist education.

EDUCATION IN ITS BROADEST SENSE is a means of returning human beings to their original relationship with God. The distinctive characteristics of this Adventist worldview, built around creation, the fall, redemption, and re-creation, are derived from the Bible and the inspired writings of Ellen G. White.

STANDARD 2—CURRICULUM

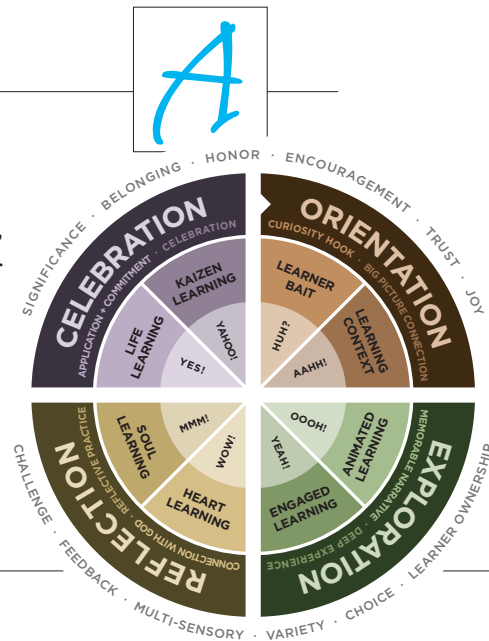
The curriculum is the core of the educational program providing for the spiritual, mental, physical, social, and emotional development of students and preparing them for this world and for eternity.

STANDARD 3—INSTRUCTION

The instructional program is aligned with curriculum design and assessment practices and provides for a variety of learning experiences, consistent with the school's philosophy, goals, and standards, and actively engages students in learning.

STANDARD 4—ASSESSMENT

Assessment data informs changes in curriculum and instruction.



COMMENTS

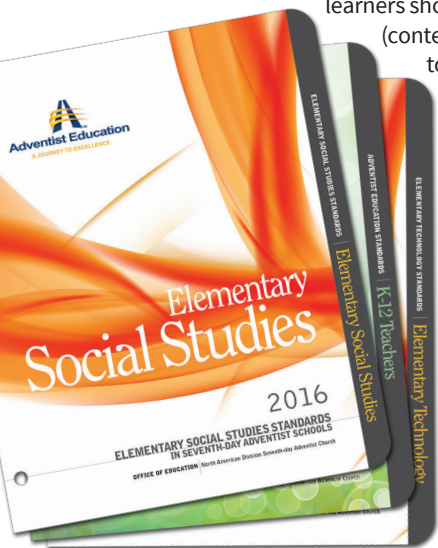
Standards

NAD education is in the process of becoming a standards-based culture. Standards are important to ensure equity across schools so all learners have equal opportunities. Standards also provide a common language which enhances conversation, collaboration, and implementation planning in and among schools. And standards provide a framework for accountability. Specifically, *student standards* are what learners should know

(content) and be able to do (skills).

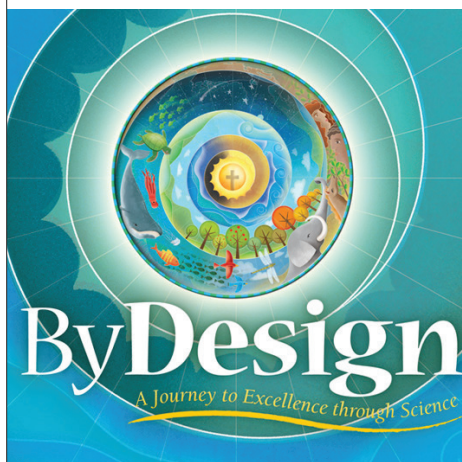
Standards in NAD Seventh-day Adventist schools reflect the Adventist worldview across the early childhood through grade 12 curricula as well as the integration of national and provincial/state standards. NAD *teacher and leadership*

standards identify the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that are necessary to support student learning outcomes. NAD *school improvement standards* focus on the total educational program within the context of four domains—purpose, plan, practice, product—which inform the change process and lead to increased student achievement.



ByDesign Science and Kindergarten Stepping Stones

Two new elementary programs, developed by NAD, have just been published—*ByDesign Science* for grades 1-8 and *Kindergarten Stepping Stones*. *ByDesign* is built on a foundation of inquiry that encourages wonderment, questioning, collaboration, and exploration of multiple resources to conduct research and investigations as students continue learning and building their science knowledge. Learners are engaged with rigorous, yet developmentally appropriate activities, that nurture their natural curiosity as they explore the wonderment of God's Creation through the lens of the Bible. *Kindergarten Stepping Stones* is based on the belief that kindergarten is a stepping stone between home, early childhood education, and the primary grades of school. This integrated curriculum has a rich children's literature base and inquiry-based activities that encourage exploration and discovery. The program recognizes that young children are created in God's image and must be nurtured to think, learn, choose, and grow.



Encounter Bible

During the 2015-2016 school year, 9th grade Encounter Bible Curriculum was rolled out across the North American Division with much anticipation and appreciation. There is excitement as Nina Atcheson, a co-author of the program, has now completed writing of the 10th grade Encounter Bible that will be rolled out during the 2016-2017 school year, followed by 11th and 12th grade Encounter Bible the succeeding years. Elementary Encounter Bible is in its development phase with numerous pilot schools across the NAD. The common feeling amongst teachers currently teaching Encounter state that, "My students and I LOVE this new curriculum! They are much more engaged than in years past." The program was developed by Adventist Schools in Australia. The program is organized around the Transformational Planning Framework authored by Lanelle Cobbin, a curriculum specialist for the New Zealand Pacific Union Conference. This framework provides for a head, heart, and hand approach to Bible instruction, rather than a purely content-based approach to learning Scripture; students are provided opportunities to expand their biblical knowledge, develop a personal relationship with God, and be involved in service to others. Such an approach focuses on transforming learners into "thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought" (Education, p. 17), as well as embracing the call from Jesus to "go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. . . ." (Matthew 28:19). Ultimately, the *Encounter Bible* curriculum has at its core an experiential approach to Bible class using the Bible as the perfect standard of truth.

Exciting! Engaging! Life-Starting Curriculum

A comprehensive, self contained, digital curriculum that promotes the development of the whole child.



Early Childhood Curriculum

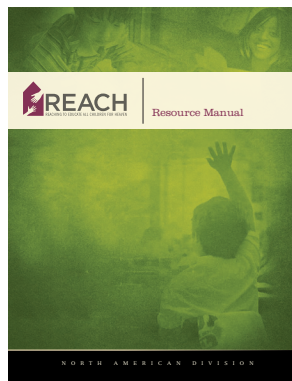
The NAD has developed two curriculum resources to serve as instructional supports for centers and classrooms. The *CREATIONKids* curriculum is designed to facilitate the growth and development of young children, molding them to be competent learners and communicators; confident in their sense of belonging; secure in the love of Christ and the Church; and healthy in mind, body, and spirit. The Bible serves as the foundation of the program; the overarching curriculum framework embodies the eight principles of CREATION Health—Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Skills, Outlook, and Nutrition; and developmentally appropriate activities and evidenced-based instructional practices contribute to the overall integrity of the program. The *Be Like Jesus Faith-based Companion* is a web-based resource, providing over 100 biblically-based lessons, activities, and ideas to help those who work with young children integrate the Adventist worldview and the Bible into daily learning activities and practices. The *Cobblestones Pre-kindergarten Companion* to the *Kindergarten Stepping Stones* curriculum is designed to assist teachers in meeting the needs of pre-kindergarten students (age 4) who are in pre-k and K combination classrooms.

REACH Inclusion Initiative

The NAD REACH (Reaching to Educate All Children for Heaven) Inclusion Initiative provides supports and resources to teachers and educational leaders for the provision of research-based practices that inform learning for all students.

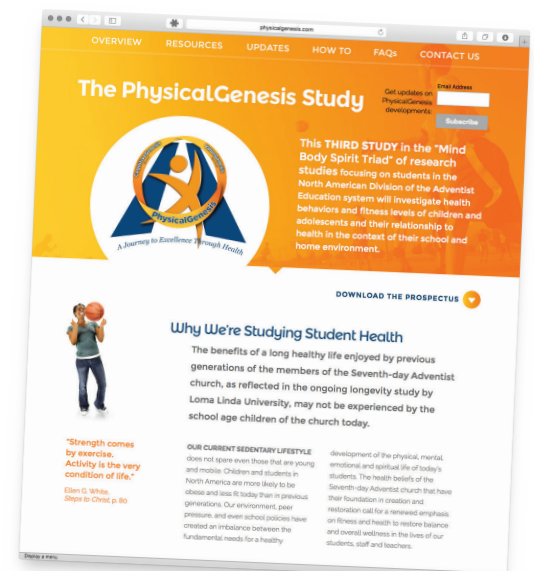
Evidence suggests that inclusive practices that are student-centered create a culture of teaching and learning that transcends curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Implementing school-wide learner-driven practices that are inclusive of standards-based teaching, learning, and grading; focused on personalized learning that encompasses differentiated instruction and assessment; as well as concerted efforts to build and sustain leadership capacity not only support students with disabilities but enhance outcomes for all learners. Additionally, REACH provides specific strategies, supports and resources that help teachers, not only meet the needs of most students, but assists teachers in meeting the specific and unique needs of students with disabilities.



PhysicalGenesis

The NAD Office of Education, in collaboration with Dr. Nico Rizzo from Loma Linda University and Dr. Rob Thomas from La Sierra University, is coordinating a division-wide health study of Adventist students in grades 5-11. This study, known as PhysicalGenesis, complements the *ValueGenesis* and *CognitiveGenesis* research and focuses on the identification of the health behaviors and fitness levels of children and adolescents across the North American Division. National data estimates that over one third of children and adolescents are overweight or obese. Research also indicates that physical fitness is related to overall well-being and may contribute to increases in academic performance. The data from the *PhysicalGenesis* survey and physical fitness tests, administered during the spring of 2015 and 2016, will provide valuable insights regarding the health habits and lifestyles of students in the North American Division that can be used to inform teaching and learning practices.



STANDARD 5—SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP

Administration and school board ensure the effective and successful operation of the school.

STANDARD 6—SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

The school environment is designed and maintained to promote student learning and to support the school's mission and goals.

STANDARD 7—PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Administration and faculty collaborate to develop and implement professional learning opportunities to enhance the ongoing growth and development of school personnel.

STANDARD 8—COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Communication and collaboration among the school, constituency, and community are essential to providing an effective educational program.



COMMENTS

Higher Education

The NAD higher education collaborative project among three institutions-Southern Adventist University, Southwestern Adventist University, and Union College- continues to grow and the indicators are that the project will continue to provide insight as to how all our institutions can work closer together. The NAD Office of Education has also re-established the Adventist College/ University Teacher Education Program

Endorsement process which focuses on determining a term of endorsement for the teacher education programs based on the degree to which they meet the denominational standards to prepare Adventist teachers for service in Seventh-day Adventist schools. This process is serving to create a stronger collaboration between the NAD Office of Education and teacher education programs, resulting in teacher candidates that understand the principles and philosophy of Adventist education and that are familiar with the resources that have been developed specifically for Adventist classrooms. As of January 1, 2016, all programs have been visited.

Professional Growth

Professional learning is critical to the sustainability of a system. Two NAD system-wide professional learning experiences, that are scheduled every six years, include the NAD Teachers' Convention and the ASDASA Conference. In August 2012, 6,500 educators from around the North American Division met in Nashville for the NAD Teachers' Convention with the theme "Moving Hearts and Minds Upward." There was an opportunity for both professional as well as spiritual renewal, as educators were inspired by a variety of keynote and breakout session presentations. In addition, there was time for educators to connect with colleagues and build the foundation for future collaborative experiences. In February 2015, the Association of Seventh-day Adventist School Administrators (ASDASA) met in Dallas to share ideas, discuss challenges in Adventist education, grow professionally, and be spiritually fed. With the theme "Encounter Jesus: Experience Excellence," educational leaders were encouraged to continue the Journey to Excellence to prepare learners for the 21st century as well as for eternity.

Technology Tools

The NAD Office of Education works to serve and support our PK-12 schools on many technology-focused fronts:

ADVENTIST EDUCATION TOOLKIT

Our division-wide reporting portal that houses secure files, student and teacher ID managers, and reports created from the consolidated data from schools such as grades, attendance, demographic information, etc. This continues to be fine-tuned to meet the needs of all levels, school on up to the division.

eCERTIFICATION

A portal accessed through the Toolkit allowing an educator to go online to review their denominational certification status and determine what is needed to renew or complete their certification.

FOOTPRINTS

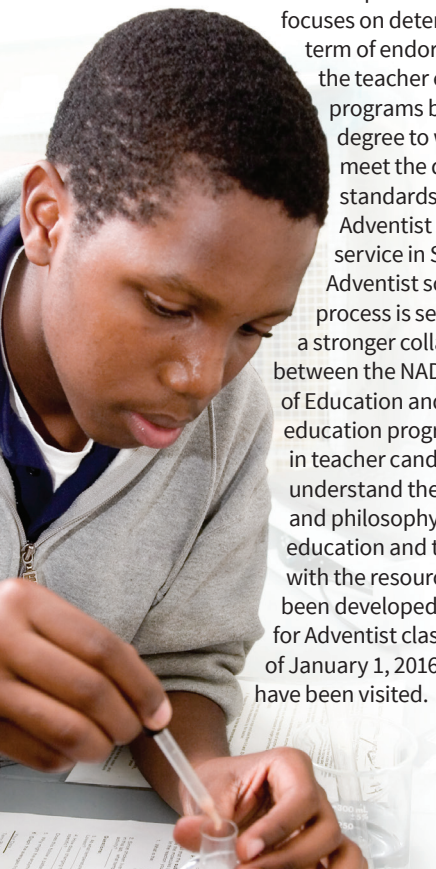
A data management portal for early childhood education centers being released fall 2016.

RESOURCES

In cooperation with union departments of education, schools are provided access to Britannica Digital products (encyclopedia, images, eBooks) and Visual Thesaurus at no cost. Other resources are available at negotiated prices making it possible for even the smallest school to afford quality online content-related resources.

ADVENTISTEDUCATION.ORG

Includes invaluable resources for early childhood, elementary, and secondary teachers and administrators as well as pastors and parents. It is the main port of entry for our curriculum microsites (Social Studies, PE, Language, Science, Math, and Technology). These sites are created specifically with the Adventist teacher in mind. The NAD Employment site is also accessed through the website. Teachers can upload resumes and browse job openings posted by conferences here in the US, as well as international education institutions.



STANDARDS

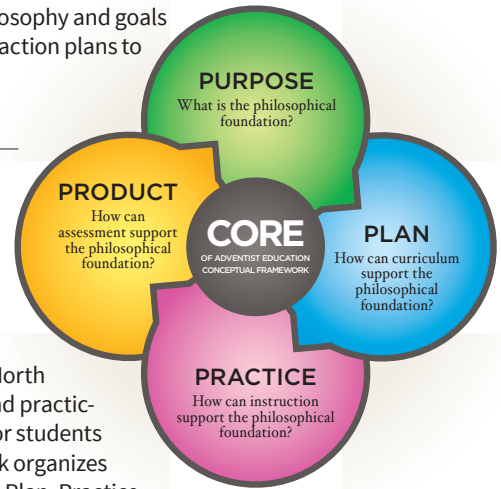
STANDARD 9—SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The accreditation process assists a school in appraising the total program to determine the level to which the purposes and functions outlined in its statement of philosophy and goals for student learning are accomplished as well as in providing the basis for action plans to address areas needing improvement.

COMMENTS

Accreditation

The Standards for Accreditation of Seventh-day Adventist Schools has been recently revised to address the NAD's commitment to continuous improvement in the attainment of excellence in student learning. The accreditation process outlined in this document provides all schools in the North American Division with a robust structure for reflecting upon programs and practices, raising quality, achieving excellence, and delivering better outcomes for students and their families. The Core of Adventist Education Conceptual Framework organizes the accreditation standards within the context of four domains—Purpose, Plan, Practice, and Product. The Standards for Accreditation of Seventh-day Adventist Schools is a dynamic, researched-based online tool designed to assist schools in the process of self-assessment that is context-specific, evidence-informed, and outcomes-focused. In this process, the instrument provides a focus through which schools evaluate the extent to which they are meeting stakeholder expectations, delivering on system, school, and community priorities, and implementing strategic goals and initiatives. In addition, a new instrument is being piloted that is totally web-based and automatically pulls information from the NAD database to fill vital demographic data for each school.



Adventist Education
A JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
12501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20904-6600