

An Introduction to “Paths to School Improvement”

2012 Africa Roundtable 2 Declaration identified ten catalysts as strategically important to the development of the Christian schooling movement on the continent. A comprehensive and measured approach to school improvement was one of the ten catalysts.

School improvement is an ongoing process through which an educational institution strives for educational and spiritual excellence. It is a process of assessing and recognizing educational institutions for their standards, performance, integrity and quality. Paths to School Improvement (PSI) exists to develop God honoring, high quality, schools of choice whatever the resources* available to that school.

*Human Resources, Material Resources, Financial Resources, Professional Development Resources.

PSI builds a strong foundation for a Christian school by presenting appropriate and attainable standards complemented by training in these key standard areas.

Through PSI, Christian school leaders and teachers will have a greater appreciation of the school improvement process and will be equipped with a clear understanding of the standards and the process of honest self-assessment necessary for continuous school improvement.

ACSI member schools will be strengthened by PSI, furthermore strengthening the recognition of the association (ACSI) as synonymous with quality Christian education.

The PSI process

Schools* entering into the PSI make a worthy investment and do so with a desire to bring honor to the name of Jesus Christ by committing to be the best possible school that it can be. *“Whatever you do, work at it with all you heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” Colossians 3:23*

Schools must also commit to honesty, integrity, and transparency as foundational to the process. *“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.” Lamentations 3:40* *“Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won’t need to compare yourself to anyone else.” Galatians 6:4*

Upon completion of the application and acceptance by an ACSI office, 5-10 schools will be assigned to a learning group, or cohort, for the duration of the PSI process of approximately two years. The cohort will meet for five sessions, each session spaced about six months apart. Each session will last 3-5 days. Each session will build upon the prior session, leading to the completion of the PSI process. The program begins with the biblical foundation for school improvement followed by presentation of the standards, accompanied with training for understanding. Guided authentic dialog and transparent self-assessment is followed by standards implementation assignments and further reassessment at the next session.

Schools successfully completing the PSI will receive a certificate attesting to the institution’s achievement of the standards and commitment to improvement. The certificate will be valid for two years. Renewing the certificate will require the school to show continued adherence to the standards as well as setting and pursuing further improvements and growth.

*PSI is a service available to ACSI member schools.