



# ABS Accreditation Newsletter

Cognia Accreditation Updates



## The Year in Review Report

## STEM Certification



What is it?

STEM engages learners in inquiry processes that promote deep thinking in social learning contexts, with clear connections to outcomes associated with success at progressive levels of learning and work. Cognia's STEM Certification Standards provide a set of evaluative criteria that form the foundational elements of a high-quality STEM program within a school or system and contain concepts that serve as a roadmap for implementing high-quality STEM practices and processes. Additionally, the STEM certification process allows Cognia Review Teams to evaluate an institution's STEM implementation and provide feedback that validates current practices and informs opportunities for continued improvement.

### Actions towards next Accreditation Cycle

Based on report feedback, we set goals for the coming years to initiate or improve:

1. We accept feedback to make positive changes to the school.
2. We have enhanced teaching and instruction with professional development within the school, by local organizations, and through Cognia Learning Labs.
3. Development of teaching skills is a team effort through the analysis- training-feedback cycle.
4. Grading Conventions have been adjusted to focus on the development of skills- formative assessment.
5. We have standardized many of our departmental practices to be schoolwide.
6. We have developed extracurricular programs to promote student knowledge and



## ABS Accreditation and STEM Goals



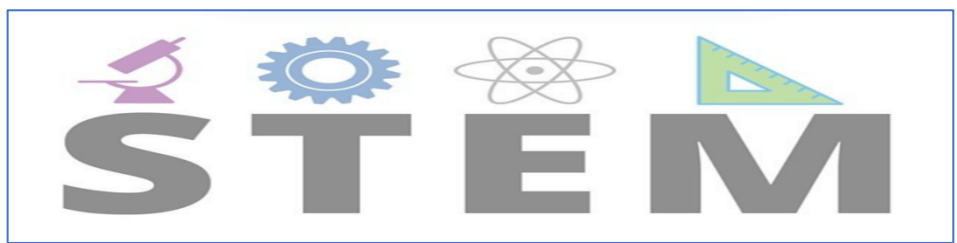
These are the ABS goals for use in a two-year cycle.

### ABS ACCREDITATION GOALS

1. To prepare ABS students for the 21st Century with innovative technological resources, tools, including the guided, applicable integration of Artificial Intelligence.
2. To enhance teaching skills and improve classroom instruction using ABS and Cognia professional development and training resources within the continuous improvement process.
3. To identify effective instructional programs measured by data analysis of standardized and formative student assessments.

### ABS STEM GOALS

1. To incorporate "STEM Connections" schoolwide, the seven elect learning environments among G1-12 as focus areas within lessons.
2. To standardize the Cognia elect learning environment tool among teachers as a measure of student learning.
3. To form a strategic resource plan which utilizes current materials for maximization of student curricular and extracurricular learning.



### Keys to STEM Learning



Keys to STEM Learning In addition to meeting Cognia's STEM Certification Standards and Assurances, a quality STEM program is:

- Thoroughly embedded in and supported by the institution
- Defined by clear expectations for stem learning outcomes
- Composed of integrated activities within and beyond the school day.
- Engaging and enjoyable
- Focused on performance-based demonstration of learning.

