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April 28, 2026

Jamal Y Hajsaleh, Principal
Al-Azhar Islamic Academy
1284 E Bullard Ave
Fresno, California 93710

Dear Jamal Y Hajsaleh:

The Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) announces the action taken at the Spring 2026 Commission Meeting. The ACS WASC Commissioners have determined Al-Azhar Islamic Academy (TK-6) meets the ACS WASC criteria for initial accreditation.

It is the decision of the Commission to grant Initial Accreditation Status through June 30, 2029. This decision is based on all of the information provided by the school, including the school's report, and the satisfactory completion of the accreditation visit. Prior to the end of this initial accreditation period, schools must complete a self-study assessment and submit a self-study report, including the progress made in meeting the recommendations of the initial visit visiting committee.

Self-study training will be provided and Al-Azhar Islamic Academy will be expected to have key staff participate in these training sessions. An ACS WASC visiting committee will conduct a site visit to review the self-study findings and supporting evidence, conduct classroom observations, and dialogue with all stakeholders. The committee will evaluate the programs and operations and the impact on student learning.

Accreditation status is conditioned upon Al-Azhar Islamic Academy's continued adherence with the ACS WASC policies, procedures, and criteria for accreditation. One accreditation requirement is the obligation of schools to notify ACS WASC of any changes which might be substantive in nature with an explanation of the change and the anticipated effect on the educational program (see linked enclosures).

Another accreditation requirement is that schools and districts annually contribute members to participate on visiting committees. This is particularly helpful to newly accredited schools in order to gain a better understanding of the accreditation process. New members can sign up to serve on a visiting committee on the ACS WASC website at www.acswasc.org. Failure to maintain compliance with said policies, procedures, and standards is grounds for modification and/or withdrawal of accreditation.

The approval of initial accreditation entitles you to use the following phrase on transcripts or in school advertising: **Fully Accredited by (or) Accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges**, until such time as your accreditation has either lapsed or been denied. If all grade levels operated by the school were included in the initial visit review, the above statement is sufficient. In other cases, the statement must specify the programs or grade levels accredited, i.e., "Fully Accredited for Grades (9–12 for example) by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges."

Transcripts of students who are graduating or transferring from grades covered by the accreditation may be stamped or embossed with the ACS WASC accredited seal which can be obtained from the ACS WASC office, or the "Accredited by ..." phrase can be typed on the transcript.

If you choose to disclose your status in any communications with the public, you must specify the program or grade levels which are covered by the initial status. You must also include the name, address and website of the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges in the same communication. The information to include is:

Accrediting Commission for Schools
Western Association of Schools and Colleges
533 Airport Blvd., Suite 200, Burlingame, CA 94010
www.acswasc.org

The WASC Communication Toolkit is accessible on the home page of the School Portal at <https://acswasc.my.site.com/schoolportal/s/login/>. The toolkit provides resources for schools to share their accreditation status with their community and also provides access to the WASC "Accredited" logos and merchandise order forms.

The Commission looks forward to Al-Azhar Islamic Academy's anticipated success and continuing improvement in keeping with ACS WASC's pursuit of excellence in elementary, secondary, and adult education.

Sincerely,



Linda Norman, Ed.D.
Commission Chairperson

cc: Elizabeth Oberreiter

Linked

Enclosure(s): [Visiting Committee Report](#)
[ACS WASC Substantive Change Policy and Procedures](#)
[ACS WASC Merchandise Order Form](#)