Instruction is the way teachers help students achieve the planned learner outcomes (objectives) in the school's curriculum. The instructional resources of a school may be housed in a separate media center, in individual classrooms, or in some combination of the two. In whatever form, the resources of the school will be effective for carrying out the objectives of the school when they are of sufficient quantity and variety, when they are carefully selected to meet the needs of students, when they are available to teachers and students, and when they are properly maintained.

RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING:

A. Which teaching methods are used most often?

   Question and answer techniques, lecture, hands on materials, videos, small and large group discussion, one-on-one discussion, and games, such as current events trivia or a review game before a test. There are also times for students to go to the whiteboard and work out problems or practice math facts on the computer/smart board. The internet is used for educational games and videos in kindergarten and up. A Spanish curriculum is on videotape and used by first through eighth grade.

B. Describe the process of reporting learner progress to parents and/or other caregivers.

   Zion uses an online grading system called Engrade. The teachers input all the grades into this program. In the beginning of the year, all parents and/or other caregivers are given a username and password to access their child's grades online. Parents and/or other caregivers may go onto Engrade at anytime during the year and see how their child is doing in school. Teachers, first through eighth, also send home a mid-term progress report midway through each of the four quarters. At the end of each quarter, a formal report card is sent home in all grades K-8. A fall parent-teacher conference for all grades is held. Parents often make contact with the teachers either by phone calls, classroom visits, e-mail, or texting. Zion has an open door policy for parents to visit at anytime. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is given in the spring and the results go home with the final report cards in spring. These standardized tests are given to students in first through eighth grades.

C. In which varieties of learning experiences do students participate? How are these based on student needs for the next level of education and success in life?

   There is an outdoor education for our fifth and sixth grade students at Camp Omega which we participate in every other year. The seventh and eighth grade receive life skills from a local Christian pastor/counselor once a week.

D. Describe how current technology is used to enhance the instructional process.

   Smart boards have been placed in each of the classrooms except for kindergarten. These are used daily to practice math facts, show pictures and videos that go along with the curriculum, to play spelling and word games, and used for calendar math each day in the lower grades. Kindergarten through second grade are taught to use open office and practice typing skills. Third grade and up are taught how to use programs such as Microsoft Publisher, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint, and Microsoft Access.

E. Describe which instructional materials, other than textbooks, are used regularly by teachers and students.

   Zion uses a video series for Spanish: Zion has all five levels of the Spanish curriculum. The Accelerated Reader program is being purchased and will be implemented in the first through fourth classrooms. Learning centers are used in the first through fourth grade classrooms. These centers cover many areas such as spelling, writing, art, reading, social studies, and science. Each classroom has access to a TV/

VCR/DVD with a library of movies. The kindergarten through second grade classrooms have a library of books on tape. Manipulatives are used often in the younger grades in math and reading. Hands-on science materials are used to conduct experiments and activities.

F. Describe the holdings in your media center and professional library.
   N/A

G. How do teachers use instructional materials to communicate the Christian faith?
   Teachers supplement materials such as worksheets, videos, online resources, books, as well as discussion to implement our Christian faith into all subjects and aspects of our teaching.

H. If you have no central library or media center, please explain. (If none, items F and G are not applicable.)
   Our building does not have space available for a separate media center. However, we meet the needs of a media center with our classroom libraries which are full of grade appropriate materials. We also have a portable computer lab which contains fifteen MacBooks. Most classrooms have computers. Also, 1st-8th grades have smart boards in the classroom.

I. How are new teachers and students oriented to the media center?
   N/A

J. How, and from which funds, are media center materials procured?
   Our Zion Education League has funds available for classrooms to use to purchase materials for their classroom libraries. Also, Scholastic has a program where each student who orders books online through their monthly book orders, the classroom is given a certificate for a free book.

K. What is the total number of library books (classroom libraries and central library or media center combined)?
   Preschool/Kindergarten: 900-1000
   1st/2nd Grade: 200
   3rd/4th Grade: 764
   5th/6th Grade: 791
   7th/8th Grade: 771

L. What on-line access is available at school?
   The Internet is available for students and teachers to use during the school day. It is used for research papers, projects, educational games and videos. All staff and students must follow our internet policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

*   Report cards and other report forms that are in current use.
*   List and describe any innovations or changes in methodology and/or content that have been incorporated into the school program in the last three years and how teachers have been prepared to use these methods or help students master the new content.
*   Ethical use policy for use of technology, equipment and software.
*   An inventory list of instructional hardware and equipment used by both teachers and students.
*   A list of classroom and library reference materials. Give copyright date for each.
*   The school's short range and long range technology plans. Include the review schedule and procedures for review of the plans.
*   List of classroom materials and furnishings.

Standard 6:

Christian Teachers Facilitate Student Learning
to Achieve the Planned Outcomes of the
School's Curriculum.

REQUIRED INDICATOR OF SUCCESS:

Indicate whether or not the school meets the required indicator of success by circling **Yes** or **No**.

YES NO 6:01* All curricular areas are taught from the perspective of Lutheran theology. Personal witness and Holy Scripture are integrated throughout the day.

GENERAL INDICATORS OF SUCCESS:

General Indicators of Success help the school quantify its compliance with the Required Standard. Evaluate your school's compliance with each General Indicator of Success using the criterion defined below. In the "Comments" section related to that indicator, specify how your school falls short of full compliance for any indicator marked less than "Met in Full."

Met in Full— The indicator of success has been completely accomplished by the school. It is verifiable through evidence and documentation.

Mostly Met—The indicator of success has been partially accomplished by the school. Documentation and evidence regularly indicate that the school is well on the way toward full accomplishment of the indicator.

Rarely Met—Infrequent implementation of an indicator of success. This indicator rarely occurs in the school and evidence and documentation for compliance are minimally present.

Not Presently Met—There has been no progress by the school toward the accomplishment of this indicator of success

6:02 Instruction is based upon age-appropriate planned learner outcomes.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2) ___Rarely Met (1) ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:03 A variety of teaching methods/learning experiences are used to meet the individual needs of students.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2) ___Rarely Met (1) ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:04 Teachers prepare written weekly and daily lesson plans.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2) ___Rarely Met (1) ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:05 Students with special needs have education programs designed to meet their needs.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2) ___Rarely Met (1) ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:06 Regular reports of each student's progress are made to parents or legal caregivers in conferences and in written form.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2) ___Rarely Met (1) ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:07 Materials are available and used for children with special needs such as remediation, enrichment and extension of learning.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2) ___Rarely Met (1) ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:08 A variety of instructional/learning materials and equipment are readily available and used by teachers and learners.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2) ___Rarely Met (1) ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:09 Instructional/learning materials do not conflict with Lutheran theology and are selected with consideration for Christian standards.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2) ___Rarely Met (1) ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:10 Access to professional resources is appropriate and adequate.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2)   ___Rarely Met (1)   ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:11 Reliable equipment for the reproduction of paper materials is available.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2)   ___Rarely Met (1)   ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:12 Current reference materials are available (e.g. encyclopedias, dictionaries, current events materials).
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2)   ___Rarely Met (1)   ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:13 All media and other library materials are classified and catalogued according to an accepted system.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2)   ___Rarely Met (1)   ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:14 The media center holds a balanced collection of print materials, non-print materials, and teaching/learning equipment which is sufficient in quantity and quality to meet the educational needs of the students.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2)   ___Rarely Met (1)   ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:15 The media center is easily accessible by all children and staff throughout each school day.
_3__Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2)   ___Rarely Met (1)   ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

6:16 The school has adopted and put in place a comprehensive technology plan. The plan includes, but is not limited to: staff development; budget; hardware and software inventories; designated technology leadership; accessibility of technology to students, staff and school communities; integration into the curriculum; acceptable and ethical use policy; and a time line for the process of informing and involving the school's communities in the decision-making process. The technology plan is reviewed periodically, and when appropriate, revised.
__3_Met in Full (3)   ___Mostly Met (2)   ___Rarely Met (1)   ___Not Presently Met (0)   __3___

COMMENT ON THE WHOLE
SUBSECTION ON INSTRUCTION:

A. Is the required indicator of success met? **YES**
B. Is the total for the indicators of success a minimum of 30 points? **YES**
C. Based on this portion of the self-study, what are the strengths of your school?
Our school has a high emphasis on Christian education. Instruction includes a variety of instructional/ learning materials and teaching methods used to meet the needs of all students and is age appropriate. The staff continually grows in their own education through CEU's or taking college or graduate courses. The teachers also try grow each yearStudents with special needs have education programs through Lutheran Special Education Ministries designed to meet special needs such as remediation, enrichment, and extension of learning. Our administrator keeps looking forward with plans to make Zion a leading school in technology.
D. Based on the concerns identified in your self-study, you will develop future plans to improve your school. Identify every item marked as less than "Met in Full" with specific plans for action to be taken by the school over the next cycle of accreditation. Any areas identified as needing improvement in the "Respond to:" component must also be included in the proposed school action plan and addressed in the cumulative annual report.