

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

FOR

FRESNO ADVENTIST ACADEMY

5937 E Olive Avenue

Fresno CA 93727

Central California Conference

May 4-7, 2008

Visiting Committee Members

Linda Faye Johnson, Chair
Instructional Consultant, retired

Mrs. Shawna Northrup
Vice Principal, Redlands Adventist Academy

Mrs. Carolyn Reed
Teacher, retired

Thambi Thomas
Associate Director of Education
Pacific Union Conference of Seventh Day Adventists

Chapter I: Student/Community Profile

Brief description of the students and community served by the school

Fresno Adventist Academy (FAA) is located in the city and counties of Fresno, California, in the central San Joaquin Valley. The community from which FAA draws its students is diverse. Fresno is an emerging metropolitan center with a rich cultural mix of more than 90 different nationalities. The major racial/ethnic groups include Hispanic (39.9%), Caucasian (37.3%), Asian (11.2%), Black or African-American (8.4%), Native American (1.6%), and Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (0.1%). The remaining percentage represents multiple other racial/ethnic groups.

Fresno County Farm Bureau statistics report that one in every three jobs in the county relates to agriculture and the county is the world's number one agricultural producer. At the same time, increasing numbers of industrial manufacturing and service industries are finding Fresno county to be an ideal location in which to base all types of operations. The median household income is \$32,236. The unemployment rate is higher than the state and national average and there are significant numbers of migrant farm workers. A little over 20% of the population is below poverty level per U.S. Census guidelines.

The current student body of FAA is comprised of Caucasian or Caucasian/Hispanic (48%), Hispanic (32%), Asian (10%), African-American or Caucasian/African-American (8%), Native American (0.5%), and Other (1.5%). In 2007 and historically, the number of male and female students is about the same.

Enrollment statistics over the past 15 years show a steady decline in the number of students attending Fresno Adventist Academy. Since the last WASC and AAA visits in 2002, the number of students has dropped from 274 to 209 enrolled, according to opening report information submitted to the Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Education Department (CCC). While the high school enrollment has decreased by 22%, K-8 enrollment decreased by nearly 25% from 2002 to 2007. It is worth noting, however, that approximately 40 children in constituent churches are being home-schooled. Comparing trends with CCC school enrollments, the Leadership Team states that this is fairly common in Seventh-day Adventist education in this region. The Self-Study notes that a minimum of 50 newly recruited students have entered FAA in each of the past five years. The Visiting Committee shares the school's concern about the impact of decreasing enrollment and about the high number of students who decide not to continue their education at FAA. The school reports that follow-up studies are needed to determine why students leave FAA.

