

MEMORANDUM

To: ACCSC-Accredited Flight Schools
From: Michale McComis, Executive Director
Subject: Flight Instructor Qualifications
Date: August 26, 2026

On March 15, 2006, the Commission issued an Accreditation Alert for flight schools providing an opportunity for such schools to apply for an institutional waiver of *Section III (B)(5), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation*, thereby allowing them to substitute Federal Aviation Administration (“FAA”) requirements for ACCSC’s prior practical work experience standard in order to align with how the industry recognizes and issues pilot certifications. As part of that waiver process, flight schools were required to show institutional policies, processes and procedures demonstrating sufficient oversight of flight school instruction through means other than prior practical work experience. Such evidence was required through a waiver request submitted during each renewal cycle or substantive change application.

The Commission has reviewed the institutional waiver process and determined to streamline that same approach. Therefore, effective July 1, 2026, any flight school that has previously been granted a waiver of *Section III (B)(5), Substantive Standards, Standards of Accreditation* will no longer be required to submit independent institutional waiver requests with each Application for Renewal of Accreditation or substantive change application. Instead, flight schools will be required to address the same waiver-related questions as those established in the 2006 Accreditation Alert but now as an integrated component of the renewal of accreditation process (i.e., as part of the Application for Renewal of Accreditation and Self-Evaluation Report) and other substantive change application processes.

To show that flight schools have met and sustained the spirit of ACCSC’s requirements under this waiver, schools must demonstrate, through comprehensive institutional policies, processes, and procedures, that:

1. The flight school has maintained appropriately rigorous hiring criteria;
2. The flight school has consistently and appropriately supervised faculty;
3. The flight school’s faculty approved under this waiver engage in comprehensive faculty development and improvement activities; and
4. The flight school consistently utilizes a formative and summative performance evaluation process for faculty.

Should any concerns arise during the application review process in the aforementioned areas, the school will be expected to address such concerns in accordance with the applicable stages of review. The expectation remains that the school meets these requirements and expectations for educational administrative oversight and faculty professional development in a continuous and ongoing manner.