



AdvancED Accreditation: A Guide for Parents

**Paulding County School District will participate in the
AdvancED Accreditation Process October 8-10, 2018.**

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary process to ensure that schools and districts meet high standards, engage in continuous improvement, and demonstrate quality assurance through an internal and external review.

AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan accrediting organization that conducts rigorous, on-site reviews of a variety of educational institutions and systems. AdvancED has developed quality standards and processes that meet requirements for public and private schools and systems, education corporations, early learning, post-secondary, and digital learning institutions.

What does accreditation mean to me as a parent?

A school's commitment to accreditation assures parents and the community that the school is focused on raising student achievement, providing a quality learning environment, and maintaining efficient and effective operational practices. An accredited school adheres to high quality standards based on the latest research and successful professional practices.

AdvancED accreditation means that your district has opened its doors to review and support from an organization bringing 100 years of experience in improving educational quality.

What are the benefits to my children attending an accredited school?

Students who attend a school accredited by AdvancED can rest assured that the school is committed to raising student performance and held accountable for improving student learning on a continual basis.

Accreditation means that students have:

- **Qualified teachers** who are continually working to improve their practices and teaching methods to increase student performance
- Access to a rich, diverse, and sound **curriculum**
- Access to a range of **student activities** and **support services**
- **Transferability of credits** from school to school
- Greater **access** to federal loans, scholarships, post-secondary education, and military programs that require accreditation



How do districts and schools earn accreditation?

To earn accreditation, a district must:

Engage in an Internal Improvement Journey:

1. **Learn & Share:** A community of stakeholders share their perspective and experiences and learn about how the work of the school impacts every stakeholder and student.
2. **Examine & Plan:** A critical self-analysis whereby the district/school community examines the work against research-based factors. Engaging stakeholders in defining the vision for the district/school as well as setting the strategic direction to achieve the vision.
3. **Act & Evaluate:** Plot the journey and take action. Gather evidence and determine results. Based on the results, determine the next step to advance the journey.

Participate in an External Engagement Review

AdvancED On-Site Visit: An AdvancED team conducts an on-site visit and uses an online productivity tool to:

- a) Rate the demonstration of AdvancED Performance Standards,
- b) Capture student, parent, and leader/governing body interviews, and
- c) Record Governance Board and classroom observations.

Do I have a role in accreditation?

Yes! You can assist with accreditation by:

- Staying informed about your district/school's accreditation.
- Reinforcing the skills your school is teaching your children.
- Becoming an active member of your school's continuous improvement team and/or internal and external review process.
- Requesting and participating in opportunities to provide feedback to your school (i.e. parent surveys, focus groups, and parent meetings).

How can I find out more about accreditation?

You can visit www.advanc-ed.org to locate accredited schools and districts in your community, or you can contact your NCA CASI or SACS CASI State office. A listing of state offices also is available on the AdvancED Web site: www.advanc-ed.org

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