

Decatur County Schools

External Review Exit Report February 10 – 13, 2013



AdvancED

AdvancED is the global leader in advancing excellence in education through continuous improvement, organizational effectiveness and accreditation.



Systems Accreditation

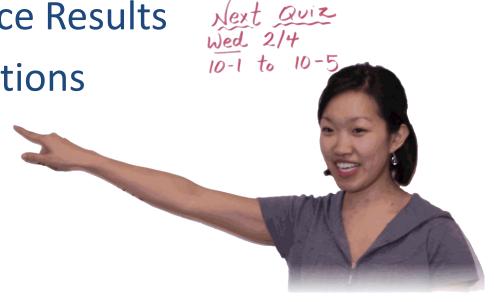
An *international protocol* for school systems committed to systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement

- Builds capacity of the system and its schools to increase and sustain student learning
- Stimulates and improves effectiveness and efficiency throughout the system



Key Elements for Accreditation

- Assessment of Standards and indicators
 - Self-Assessment
 - External Review Team Assessment
- Student Performance Results
- Stakeholder Perceptions
 - Student
 - Teacher
 - Parent





External Review

The External Review team

- Is comprised of professional peers with diverse experiences and rich contextual perspectives
- Assesses and evaluates district effectiveness in meeting requirements of accreditation

The External Review process

- Provides important validation and recognition
- Delivers valuable feedback and direction for improvement



AdvancED Standards

Governance Purpose & & Leadership Direction Teaching & 3.00 2.80 Assessing for Learning 2.25 2.73 2.40 Using Results for Resources & Continuous **Support Systems Improvement**



Learning Environment Ratings

1	Equitable Learning Environment	2.00
2	High Expectations Environment	2.00
3	Supportive Learning Environment	2.20
4	Active Learning Environment	2.20
5	Progress Monitoring and Feedback Environment	3.00
6	Well-Managed Learning Environment	2.50
7	Digital Learning Environment	1.30



The External Review team determined the Decatur County School District must act on the following:

Refine and implement a consistent supervision and evaluation process that will result in improved professional practices in all areas of the system focused on student success.



The External Review team determined the Decatur County School District must act on the following:

Implement district-wide protocols that drive collaborative data usage to inform and apply research-based instructional practices focused on student achievement.



The External Review team determined the Decatur County School District must act on the following:

Further develop and implement equitable, differentiated, and rigorous student learning opportunities that are aligned to Common Core Georgia Performance Standards.



The External Review team determined the Decatur County School District must act on the following:

 Evaluate and implement changes where necessary to the current Technology Plan, existing infrastructure, and use of current technology to support the system's teaching, learning, and operational needs.



Stakeholder Interviews

Total	236
Students	79
Parents/Community	55
Teachers	68
Administration	28
Board Members	6



Recurring Themes

- Communication
- Data-based Decisions
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Sense of Community and Collaboration
- Fiscal Constraints
- Common Core Impact
- Service of Board



Powerful Practices

 The Superintendent's proactive leadership fosters transparency and consistency across all aspects of the district.

A strong sense of community and support is reflected in high levels of collaboration and the efforts of all stakeholders to implement a shared purpose and direction for the district.



Powerful Practice

A shared purpose and direction, that promotes high expectations as evidenced by the establishment of strategic objectives and nonnegotiables, are communicated to all stakeholders.



Powerful Practices

The implementation of initiatives that focus on student performance include:

- Teachers as Advisors
- Academic Coaches
- Crisis and Safety Plans
- Parent Programs
- STEM
- Clubs
- Community Partnerships



Recommendation

The charge of the external review team is to review, validate, and evaluate the evidence provided and relay those findings to AdvancED.

Based on our findings from the review of evidence, this External Review team *recommends the Decatur County Schools be accredited*, pending further review and final action by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission.



Accreditation Decision

External Review

Completed!

AdvancED Accreditation Office Reviews and Sends Report Back to Institution

30 Business Days

AdvancED Accreditation Commission Grants Accreditation and Status

January June



Final Thoughts

The External Review team:

- Appreciates your hospitality, support, and professionalism;
- Respects and acknowledges the efforts to improve the quality of your school district; and
- Congratulates your progress towards achieving
 Systems Accreditation.





We believe in the power of education.

