



# Decatur County Schools

**External Review Exit Report  
February 10 – 13, 2013**

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

*Next Quiz  
Wed 2/4  
10-1 to 10-5*



# 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



# Learning Environment Ratings

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

# Required Actions

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.



# Required Actions

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.

# Required Actions

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.

# Required Actions

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

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

# 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 non-negotiables, 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.***