

**Trentlen County School District  
Oral Exit Report  
January 27, 2010  
Quality Assurance Review Team  
District Accreditation**

# A Picture of AdvancED



## World's Largest Educational Community

- 27,000 public and private schools
- 30 states and Navajo Nation
- Department of Defense Education Activity
- 65 countries (including Latin America)
- 15 million students
- 18,000 volunteers
- 3 million plus teachers

# AdvancED

*Dedicated to Advancing Excellence in Education Through:*

## **Accreditation**

Public, Non Public, International Services, Post-Secondary

## **Professional Learning**

Conferences, Workshops, Training, Consulting, eLearning

## **Innovation**

Research, Knowledge Management, New Product  
Development, Marketing

## **Information & Education Technologies**

IT Infrastructure, Management System, Education  
Technologies, Development and Support

# District Accreditation

**A national protocol for school districts committed to systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement**

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

# District Accreditation

**Applies a systems approach to improvement**

- Examines how all elements (*people, processes, departments and operations*) of the district work in a unified, coordinated and integrated way in pursuit of a shared vision

**Promotes improvement that is continuous not episodic**

**Strengthens efforts to meet accountability requirements and encourages growth beyond compliance to achieve excellence**

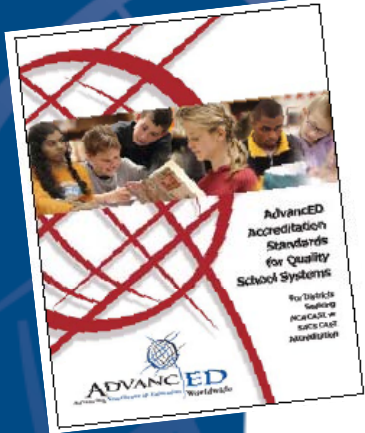
# Components of Accreditation

To earn and maintain **District Accreditation**, districts must:

- Meet the **AdvancED Accreditation Standards for Quality School Systems**
- Engage in **Continuous Improvement**
- Demonstrate **Quality Assurance** through Internal and External Review

# AdvancED

## Accreditation Standards for Quality Systems



1. **Vision and Purpose**
2. **Governance and Leadership**
3. **Teaching and Learning**
4. **Documenting and Using Results**
5. **Resources and Support Systems**
6. **Stakeholder Communications and Relationships**
7. **Commitment to Continuous Improvement**

# The District is Expected to....

- ◆ Meet the AdvancED Standards for Quality Systems
- ◆ Identify and guide the implementation of a systemic continuous improvement process
- ◆ Monitor all schools and departments through a quality assurance process
- ◆ Prepare and host a Quality Assurance Review (QAR) every five years
- ◆ Respond to the required actions from the QAR team

# Schools are Expected to ....

- ◆ Meet the *AdvancED Accreditation Standards for Quality Schools*
- ◆ Implement the district's continuous improvement process
- ◆ Participate in the district's quality assurance process

# Quality Assurance External Review Process

**Every five years the district hosts a visit by a national team of professional peers**

- The team represents NCA CASI, SACS CASI, and AdvancED
- The team meets with district stakeholders and visits a representative sample of schools
- The team presents high quality feedback and makes an accreditation recommendation
- The Review provides district and community with validation and recognition

# Quality Assurance External Review Process

**The team examines the effectiveness of the district in meeting the requirements of accreditation**

- Determines the extent to which the district meets the AdvancED quality standards
- Evaluates the value and impact of the district's improvement efforts
- Judges the efficacy of the district's methods for quality assurance

# QAR Team Activities

## **The Team Collects Data**

- Listens to district presentations
- Interviews samples of all district stakeholder groups
- Examines relevant documents and artifacts
- Visits a representative sample of schools
- Observes practices and the learning environment

## **The Team Engages in Professional Deliberations**

- Uses evidence to guide analysis, discussion, and decision-making

# Data Collection

**During the on-site Quality Assurance Review, team members visited all schools and interviewed:**

- 5 Board members
- 13 Administrators
- 34 Teachers
- 6 Support staff
- 25 Parents, community, and business partners
- 25 Students

**TOTAL of 108 stakeholders**

# Criteria Used to Arrive at the Team's Findings

- When reviewing evidence to arrive at its findings, the team:
  - Sought a district perspective;
  - Pursued evidence that could be corroborated through multiple sources;
  - Examined the context and capacity of the district in relation to its vision, mission, and beliefs; and
  - Applied the criteria for accreditation.

# The QAR Team

## **Delivers high quality feedback**

- Assesses each standard and writes narratives that describe evidence, highlight strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Provides commendations that identify and celebrate noteworthy accomplishments
- Defines required actions to help the district improve

**Communicates findings in oral and written formats**

**Makes an accreditation recommendation for national review**

# Team's Findings

## Strengths

- Strong and effective practices, processes, or systems which benefit the school district

## Commendations

- Significant accomplishments in meeting and/or exceeding accreditation standards and requirements

## Challenges

- Limitations and/or barriers that may be impacting (or have the potential to impact) the district's performance and effectiveness

## Required Actions

- Actions that will enhance district effectiveness and improve student learning

# Strengths

- Team members observed that all stakeholders, from the board to building level staff, are capable of articulating the vision and purpose of the district.
- Employees and students indicated that they are committed to successfully implementing the district's vision.
- Most people interviewed could articulate the vision and mission of the district
- The board and superintendent demonstrated a clear understanding of their respective roles.
- The superintendent is recognized as an effective communicator and leader in the system and community.
- Functional school councils are in place.
- Excellent leadership exists at the district and school level.

# Strengths *(Cont.)*

- The district has created a learning environment that encourages each child to graduate from high school.
- A strong commitment to professional growth through job-embedded professional learning designed to improve the teaching and learning process
- A variety of data is utilized to make instructional decisions.
- Vertical teaming is used to strengthen the teaching and learning process.
- The district has made a commitment to provide support for technology integration.
- The system has made a commitment to school improvement initiatives as evidenced by the inclusion of instructional facilitators at all levels, a literacy coach at the elementary level, and a graduation coach at the high school level.

# Strengths *(Cont.)*

- Students enjoy small class sizes.
- The district has made professional learning a financial priority.
- Teachers have a receptive attitude toward professional learning.
- Facilities appear to be orderly, clean, and well maintained despite their age.
- The schools have established a safe educational environment.
- Technology infrastructure is extensive.
- The technology plan is well developed and in the process of revision.

# Commendations

## **The Quality Assurance Review Team commends Treutlen County School District for:**

1. The community support and trust of the board and administration
2. The positive culture and climate and positive relationships between students and teachers
3. 21st Century instructional technology integration and tools

# Challenges

- Budgetary constraints and limited financial resources
- Engaging all parents

# Required Actions

## 1. Develop a strategic plan to address:

- Stakeholder participation
- Long term budget planning
- Long term facilities planning
- Professional Learning
- Organization and Instructional Effectiveness

## 2. Review, Revise, and Update board policies especially in the area of personnel

# Next Steps

- **A written report of the findings will be submitted within 30 business days**
- **After receipt of the report, the district is expected to:**
  - Review and communicate the findings
  - Address the required actions
  - Monitor school and system accreditation standards and improvement efforts on ongoing basis
  - Submit the Accreditation Progress Report.
- **After the next meeting of the AdvancED Accreditation Commission (January and June) reports will be available for public access**

# Accreditation Recommendation

- The Quality Assurance Review Team recommends to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission that the Treutlen County School District be awarded District Accreditation as a quality school system.
- Once reviewed and approved by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, the district and all its schools are granted a 5-year term accreditation.

# Final Thoughts

On behalf of the Quality Assurance Team, I extend:

- Our **appreciation** for your hospitality, support, and professionalism;
- Our **respect** and acknowledgement of the quality of the school district; and
- Our **congratulations** for your progress toward achieving District Accreditation as a quality system.

*AdvancED District Accreditation  
for Quality Systems  
[www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org)*

*...helping schools  
and school systems  
improve student  
learning*

