AdvancED believes in the power of education to shape the world in which we live.

Accreditation
The AdvancED® Way
> SCHOOL SYSTEMS

AdvancED offers school improvement and accreditation services to education providers of all types in their pursuit of excellence in serving students. Continuous improvement through process, content and technology is our business. We operate three regional accrediting agencies, accrediting 30,000 institutions in over 70 countries serving over 16 million students.

The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) are accreditation divisions of AdvancED.

AdvancED
www.advanc-ed.org
AdvancED® School System Accreditation

System Accreditation is pivotal to leveraging improvement across an entire school system.

Increasing student achievement involves more than improving instruction. It is a result of how well all the parts of the education system – the school system, school, and classroom – work together to meet the needs of students.

There is no question that the school and the classroom are at the heart of teaching and learning. System Accreditation, however, has the power to nurture and support individual school improvement and at the same time align school improvement with overall school system improvement goals. The result is the system itself along with all its schools moving in one direction together.

Leaders engaged in AdvancED School System Accreditation will:
- Take stock of themselves in relation to a set of research-based quality standards
- Establish a vision, assess their current reality, implement an improvement plan, monitor progress, and evaluate results
- Enhance their best thinking with the insights and perspectives of an external review team

The AdvancED Accreditation determination is based on a review of standards, student achievement and stakeholder involvement. This visionary protocol is a more holistic approach that helps to further align accreditation with accountability and places appropriate emphasis on the importance of student outcomes when evaluating institutional quality.

**The AdvancED Accreditation Protocol creates a stronger alignment between internal and external diagnostic assessment, stakeholder perception data, and student achievement data.**

**The result?**
A performance-based accreditation process that provides each institution with a more comprehensive analysis to drive continuous improvement. The AdvancED Accreditation Protocol will recognize those schools and school systems that have sustained an exemplary commitment to continuous improvement AND exhibited excellence in student achievement.

School System Accreditation can be used by school districts, corporations and diocesan.

AdvancED Standards for Quality School Systems

The AdvancED Standards for Quality School Systems are research-based comprehensive quality statements that describe conditions that are necessary for educational institutions and systems to achieve higher levels of student performance and organizational effectiveness. They serve as the foundation of the AdvancED Accreditation Protocol.

**Standard 1:**
**Purpose and Direction**
The system maintains and communicates at all levels of the organization a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

**Standard 2:**
**Governance and Leadership**
The system operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and school effectiveness.

**Standard 3:**
**Teaching and Assessing for Learning**
The system’s curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.

**Standard 4:**
**Resources and Support Systems**
The system has resources and provides services in all schools that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

**Standard 5:**
**Using Results for Continuous Improvement**
The system implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and system effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.
Benefits of AdvancED School System Accreditation

For School Systems and the Community...

- A distinctive mark of quality and integrity recognized around the globe as the standard for educational excellence.
- Standards based on educational research and best practice about the factors that impact students’ learning and systems’ effectiveness.
- A proven, clear, and powerful protocol for school and school system improvement that provides a more comprehensive analysis to drive continuous improvement and inform needed actions to improve student learning.
- A framework and support system to help meet and exceed local, state, national, and appropriate international requirements.
- An opportunity to gain valuable input, validation, and support from peers.
- Customized and technical assistance from state, regional and worldwide offices to maximize improvement efforts.
- A state-of-the-art improvement management system that facilitates, documents, and seamlessly integrates the continuous improvement and accreditation processes.

For Students...

- Enhanced focus on student performance.
- Greater articulation and coordination from one level of schooling to another.
- Reciprocity of credits that is recognized worldwide, easing the transferability of student credits with other accredited schools and enabling access to special programs, grants, and scholarships.

The AdvancED Accreditation Protocol and the AdvancED Standards for Quality School Systems offer school systems a road map for the pursuit of excellence in education and student learning, unleashing their own power to transform.