

External Review Exit Report

DeKalb County School District

March 12 – 15, 2017



AdvancED is the global leader in providing continuous improvement and accreditation services to over 32,000 institutions serving 20 million students worldwide.

Accreditation

- An international protocol for institutions 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

External Review

A diagnostic process to stimulate and guide continuous improvement with a focus on:

- Impact of teaching and learning
- Capacity of leadership
- Use of resources

External Review

Professional judgment by the External Review Team results in:

- Powerful Practices
- Opportunities for Improvement
- Improvement Priorities
- Index of Education Quality
- Accreditation Recommendation

Stakeholders

Stakeholder Interviewed	Number
Superintendent	1
Board of Education Members	7
Administrators (District = 50 & School= 192)	242
Teachers	444
Support Staff (Classified = 55 + Certified = 69)	124
Parents + Community Persons	48
Students	575
Total	1,441

Domain

Teaching and Learning Impact

The External Review Team examined:

- Student performance results
- instructional quality
- Learner and family engagement
- Support services for student learning
- Curriculum quality and efficacy
- College and career readiness data



	Learning Environments	External Review	AEN
1	Equitable Learning Environment	2.75	2.69
2	High Expectations Environment	2.72	2.80
3	Supportive Learning Environment	3.05	3.05
4	Active Learning Environment	2.92	2.93
5	Progress Monitoring and Feedback Environment	2.82	2.76
6	Well-Managed Learning Environment	3.15	3.12
7	Digital Learning Environment	1.70	1.86

Domain

Leadership Capacity

The External Review Team examined:

- Institutional purpose and direction
- Governance and leadership effectiveness
- Stakeholder engagement
- Improvement capacity
- Results

Domain

Resource Utilization

The External Review Team examined:

- Allocation and use of resources
- Equity of resource distribution to need
- Level and sustainability of resources
- Long range capital and resource planning effectiveness

Overall Themes

- Strong, visionary leadership of Superintendent
- Commitment to improve
- Sense of hope
- Clarity of purpose
- Laser focus on curriculum and instruction
- Commitment to transparency
- Importance of building relationships
- Cultural change in moving to student focus vs. adult focus

Overall Themes

- Being given a voice
- Staff feeling appreciated
- Culture of professionalism
- Building trust
- Decentralization with accountability & rapid response
- Layers of purposeful support in place
- Diversity embraced
- Growing stakeholder support
- Intensified communication efforts

POWERFUL PRACTICE

- The superintendent is a visionary leader who is passionate, supportive, inclusive, instructionally focused, and dedicated to making decisions that are in the best interest of students.
- (Indicator 2.4)

POWERFUL PRACTICE

- Coralwood Center is a highly effective, specialized learning inclusion center that serves preschool students through a research-based educational model with a heightened focus on the Autism Spectrum.
- (Indicators 3.02.016, 3.02.018, 3.02.013)

IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY

- Implement fully and monitor closely the newly developed curriculum and the system's instructional infrastructure in order to refine and enhance the instructional process used by staff to systematically support quality student learning across all classrooms.
- (Indicators 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6)

IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY

- Enhance professional development for data progress monitoring strategies to ensure all professional and support staff are systematically trained to evaluate, interpret, and utilize a range of data sources to enhance student learning.
- (Indicators 3.2, 5.2, 5.3)

Conclusions

Index of Education Quality™ (IEQ™)

- Impact of teaching and learning on student performance
- Capacity of leadership to guide and ensure effectiveness in carrying out strategic direction of institution
- Utilization of resources to meet diverse needs of students and institution
- Use as a tool for formative analysis and continuous improvement
- Connection for the conditions, processes, and practices to evidence including student performance

IEQ Results

	External Review IEQ Score	AE Network Average
Overall Score	282.93	278.94
Teaching and Learning Impact	266.67	268.48
Leadership Capacity	300.00	293.71
Resource Utilization	300.00	286.27

IEQ Results

The IEQ results indicate that the institution is performing within acceptable ranges as compared to expected criteria as well as other institutions in the AdvancED network.

Recommendation

The External Review Team recommends to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission that the

DeKalb County School District

earn the distinction of accreditation by AdvancED.

Continuous Improvement

- Improvement Priorities must be addressed within two years
- Beginning of a journey of improvement
- Deliberate and strategic actions to ensure that every child, *every day is being prepared and achieving success for their future*

Final Thoughts

The External Review Team:

- Appreciates *your hospitality, support and professionalism.*
- Respects and acknowledges the *efforts to improve the quality of your institution.*
- Congratulates your system and community on *completing the requirements for AdvancED School System Accreditation.*

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