

District Accreditation

Gaylord Community School District

**Quality Assurance Review Team
Oral Exit Report**



November 30, 2011

AdvancED

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

The AdvancED Community

World's Largest Educational Network

- 27,000 public and private schools throughout the United States and 69 countries worldwide
- All Department of Defense schools
- 15 million students
- 18 thousand volunteers
- More than 3 million teachers

AdvancED is Comprehensive

☐ Accreditation

- Public, Non-public, Post-Secondary, International

☐ Professional Learning

- Conferences, Workshops, Training, e-Learning

☐ Innovation

- Research, Product Innovation, Knowledge Management, Strategic Partnerships, Marketing

☐ Information & Education Technologies

- IT Infrastructure, Web-based Management, Education Technologies, Development & Support

District Accreditation Process

District Accreditation

An international 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

- ❑ A ***systems approach*** to improvement
 - unified, coordinated, and integrated manner in pursuit of a shared district vision
- ❑ Promotes ***continuous improvement***
- ❑ Strengthens efforts to meet ***accountability requirements***
- ❑ Encourages growth beyond compliance to ***achieve excellence***

Cornerstones of Accreditation

- Meet Standards for Organizational Effectiveness**
 - School Systems
 - Schools
- Engage in Continuous Improvement**
 - Systems Perspective and Approach
- Demonstrate Quality Assurance**
 - Internal Assessment
 - External Review

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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**

Expectations for Accreditation

For a School District

- **Meet the AdvancED Standards for Quality Systems**
- **Identify and guide the implementation of a systemic continuous improvement process**
- **Monitor its schools and departments through the quality assurance process**
- **Prepare and host a QAR every five years**
- **Respond to findings from the QAR Team**

Expectations for Accreditation

For a School

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

Expectations for Accreditation

District leadership establishes and implements practices to support schools and departments

- **Direction:** sets expectations and provides guidelines
- **Assistance:** builds understanding and develops skills
- **Resources:** provides people, materials, time and funds

Quality Assurance Review

Quality Assurance - External Review

The QAR team

- Is comprised of professional peers with diverse experience and rich contextual perspective
- Assesses and evaluates district effectiveness in meeting the requirements of accreditation

The QAR process provides the district and its community with

- Important validation and recognition
- Valuable feedback and direction for improvement

Activities of the QAR Team

- Reviewed Standard Assessment Report and District Website
- Listened to District Presentations
- Interviewed District Stakeholders
- Examined Artifacts
- Visited all four of the Schools
- Observed Practices and Learning Environment
- Collected and Organized Data

Activities of the QAR Team

- **Engaged in Analysis and Deliberations**
 - Sought and maintained a *systems perspective*
 - Examined the district's *actions and results* in relation to its vision, mission, and beliefs
 - *Pursued evidence* that could be corroborated through multiple sources
 - *Used evidence* to guide discussions, and reach decisions
 - Applied the *accreditation criteria* and requirements

Data Collection

During the on-site Quality Assurance Review, team members visited 4 of the 5 schools and interviewed:

- **2 Board members**
- **9 Administrators**
- **33 Teachers**
- **17 Support staff**
- **15 Parents, community, and business partners**
- **22 Students**

TOTAL Stakeholders 98

Quality Assurance Team Findings

The QAR Team

The **QAR Team** delivers high quality feedback by:

- Assessing each ***standard***, writing ***narratives*** describing evidence, highlighting strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Providing ***commendations*** that identify and celebrate significant accomplishments in meeting or exceeding standards
- Defining ***required actions*** to help improve district effectiveness and student learning
- ***Communicating findings*** orally and in writing
- ***Making an accreditation recommendation*** for national review

Commendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team commends the Gaylord Community Schools for the following:

- **There is an overwhelming amount of pride in the schools as reported by parents, staff, administrators, and community members. The trust level and partnerships formed with community stakeholders are outstanding and reflect the fact that the schools are the hub of community activities.**

Commendation Continued:

--Teachers report a sincere appreciation for the resources provided by both the board of education and the community. There are ample teaching supplies, professional development offerings, classroom support staff, caring administrators throughout the system, and community partnerships which are essential to student success.

Commendation Continued:

- **There is a clear focus for professional development which is research based and promotes best practice for common instructional strategies K-12. There is a long range district-wide professional development plan that clearly delineated classroom expectations through district norms and guiding principles.**

Commendation Continued:

- **The level of fiscal responsibility is exemplary as evidenced by the level of student programs and services maintained across the district: including Prekindergarten services, extra curricular offerings, community partnerships, and student support services. With the economic challenges over the past four years, the district has maintained an appropriate level of cash reserves to support both the schools and students.**

Commendation Continued:

- **The district has developed a viable and articulated curriculum K-12 based upon state standards including curriculum maps, pacing guides, power standards, common assessments, and data analysis to guide instruction in the classroom.**

Required Action:

- **Adhere to the AdvancED accreditation standards by adopting a future-oriented statement of purpose and direction focusing on student success that drives the goals, the building activities, and classroom actions to improve student performance and organizational effectiveness over time.**

Required Action Continued:

- Revive the school improvement process to reflect the district goals and measureable outcomes. Include a plan to systemically monitor the use of the School Improvement Plan to gauge student progress in meeting the objectives listed in each plan.**

Required Action Continued:

- **Formulate stakeholder perception surveys to increase involvement in the decision-making process in the schools and at the district level. Canvass school staff, parents, and community members in order to guide future long range planning for the Board, the district, and the schools.**

Standards Rubrics

Highly Functional

The district is exceptional in its demonstration of the standard and exhibits practices not commonly found in other schools. A small percentage of districts have standards ratings at this level.

Operational

The district is demonstrating the standard and using practices commonly found in other schools. Many districts have standards ratings at this level.

Emerging

The district is beginning to put in place the practices necessary to meet the standard but is not meeting it. Many districts have standards ratings at this level.

Not Evident

The district has not put practices in place or beginning efforts to meet the standard. Some districts have standards ratings at this level.

Ratings by Standard

| Standard | Rating |
|--|--------------------------|
| Vision and Purpose | Operational |
| Governance and Leadership | Highly Functional |
| Teaching and Learning | Highly Functional |
| Documenting and Using Results | Operational |
| Resources and Support Systems | Highly Functional |
| Stakeholder Communications and Relationships | Operational |
| Commitment to Continuous Improvement | Operational |

Standards Evaluation

| Standards Rating | Number |
|-------------------|--------|
| Highly Functional | 3 |
| Operational | 4 |
| Emerging | 0 |
| Not Evident | 0 |

Evidence-Based Accreditation

Accredited

Fully Accredited

On Advisement

Warned

Probation

Deny or Drop Accreditation

Accreditation Status Process

QAR Team Provides Evidence via Report



**AdvancED Accreditation Commission
Determines Accreditation Status and
Grants Term of Accreditation**

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**
 - Districts are accountable for acting on these
 - **Monitor school and system accreditation standards and improvement efforts on ongoing basis**
 - **Submit the Accreditation Progress Report**

Final Thoughts

On behalf of the Quality Assurance Team, we extend:

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

***We believe in the
power to transform.***