

AdvancED[®] Performance Accreditation

Guiding the pursuit
of excellence.



Over 28,000 schools worldwide have selected AdvancED Performance Accreditation as their framework for powerful ongoing continuous improvement.

Accreditation is pivotal to leveraging improvement.

There is no question that the institution and learning environment are at the heart of teaching and learning. However, increasing student achievement involves more than improving instruction. Using a set of rigorous protocols and research-based Standards, the accreditation process examines the whole institution – the programs, the cultural context, the community of stakeholders – to determine how well the parts work together to meet the needs of students. Institutions that choose AdvancED Performance Accreditation know that it is not the outcome, but the process of accreditation that yields the greatest return on investment for institutions.

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

AdvancED Standards for Quality

The AdvancED Standards for Quality provide a set of research-aligned Standards, Indicators and detailed Performance Levels as the foundation for organizational excellence and effectiveness.

Standard 1: Purpose and Direction

The institution maintains and communicates a purpose and direction that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership

The institution operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and institutional effectiveness.

Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning

The institution's curriculum, instructional design and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning.

Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems

The institution has resources and provides services that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement

The institution implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and institutional effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.

Together, the five AdvancED Standards for Quality focus on practices within the institutions and systematic methods of driving excellence in student performance and organizational effectiveness.

Adjust, improve and excel.

AdvancED Performance Accreditation is not about earning a label for a one-time evaluation. Rather, it recognizes and supports the journey of continuous improvement. Accreditation status is determined by an institution's Index of Education Quality™.

The Index of Education Quality (IEQ™) is a holistic measure of overall performance based on a comprehensive set of Indicators and evaluative criteria, pinpointing areas of success as well as areas in need of support or focus. The AdvancED IEQ solidifies the accreditation process as a formative measure for continuous improvement by placing an institution on a continuum of performance and providing an understanding of its current reality and a vision for its potential.

Institutions engaged in AdvancED Performance Accreditation will:

- Take stock of themselves in relation to research-based quality Standards.
- Access a framework and support system to help meet and exceed local, state, national and appropriate international requirements.
- 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.
- Receive customized and technical assistance from state, regional and worldwide offices to maximize improvement efforts.
- Utilize a state-of-the-art improvement management system that facilitates, documents and seamlessly integrates the continuous improvement and accreditation processes.
- Earn a distinctive mark of quality and integrity recognized around the globe as the standard for educational excellence.

The result?

The performance-based accreditation process provides each institution with a more comprehensive analysis to drive continuous improvement. AdvancED Accreditation recognizes those institutions that have sustained an exemplary commitment to continuous improvement AND exhibited excellence in student achievement.

AdvancED provides accreditation services for:

- Schools and School Systems
- Education Service Agencies
- State Education Agencies
- Special Purpose Schools
- Digital Learning Institutions
- Early Learning Schools

AdvancED Performance Accreditation offers education institutions a road map for the pursuit of excellence in education and student learning, unleashing their own power to transform.





AdvancED® Performance Accreditation: Step by Step

Application & Readiness

- 1 Contact an AdvancED managing office and complete an application.** An AdvancED representative will contact you to prepare for a Readiness Review. This contact person will provide you support throughout the process. Once the Readiness Review is complete, you will receive a report from the review and be asked to confirm your commitment to move forward with the process.

Internal Review

- 2 Collect student performance data** before or in conjunction with the Self Assessment to gain a comprehensive picture of student performance.
- 3 Conduct the Self Assessment** by analyzing data and using supporting evidence to rate performance against a series of evaluative criteria.
- 4 Conduct stakeholder surveys** as part of the Self Assessment to get feedback from representative parents, students and staff during a specific time frame. Analyze results and complete the stakeholder feedback diagnostic.
- 5 Write an Executive Summary** that describes and celebrates the school or system, defines purpose and direction and identifies achievements and challenges.
- 6 Create a quality improvement plan** based on analysis of data that aligns improvement goals with diagnostic results, communicates purpose and direction and builds shared commitment.

7 Demonstrate compliance with AdvancED, government and partnership requirements by:

- Reporting substantive changes.
- Sharing crisis/security management plan.
- Demonstrating effective financial audit system.
- Engaging in continuous improvement.
- Verifying that across systems all schools meet accreditation standards.

External Review

- 8 Work with AdvancED to conduct and host an External Review.** Led by an AdvancED-certified Lead Evaluator, a rigorously trained Review Team will visit your institution. This team will:
 - Perform classroom observations using the **AdvancED Effective Learning Environment Observation Tool™ (eleot™)**.
 - Review student performance and stakeholder feedback.
 - Conduct internal and external stakeholder interviews.
 - Determine the extent to which your institution meets AdvancED Standards for Quality and other evaluative criteria as compiled in the IEQ™.
 - Examine additional artifacts and evidence.

Through the External Review process, institutions receive a comprehensive report of the team's findings with recognition of Powerful Practices, Opportunities for Improvement and Improvement Priorities.

Post Review

- 9 At the end of the External Review, findings are presented and the initial IEQ score is announced, pending further review by the local AdvancED Council and the AdvancED Accreditation Commission.** Council Accreditation recommendations are ratified quarterly by the Accreditation Commission.
- 10 Following accreditation, institutions should maintain momentum for continuous improvement by:**
 - Engaging in ongoing self-reflection, internal review and stakeholder communication.
 - Responding to Improvement Priorities for ongoing improvement.
 - Securing, if desired, the services of an AdvancED Expert to guide improvement efforts.
 - Submitting their Accreditation Progress Report within two years of the External Review.
 - Celebrating the reward of hard work, success and dedication!



About AdvancED

AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving the largest community of education professionals in the world. Founded on more than 100 years of work in continuous improvement, AdvancED combines the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change to empower PreK-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential.

The NCA Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the SACS Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) are accreditation divisions of AdvancED.



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External Review Draft Schedule (Digital Learning)

<Insert Date> **External Review Team Arrives**
 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Team dinner at (location TBD)
 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Team Work Session #1 (location TBD)

<Insert Date> Day 1

Time	Event	Who
7:45 a.m.	Arrival at school	External Review Team
8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Principal’s Overview	Principal / Leadership Team External Review Team
8:30-9:15 a.m.	Standards Overview Presentation/Interviews with leadership team	Principal / Leadership or School Improvement Team External Review Team
9:30-10:15	Student Performance Diagnostic Review	Leadership Team/Director of Curriculum and Assessment External Review Team
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Digital Learning Systems Overview and Demonstrations	External Review Team
11:30 – 12:15 p.m.	Lunch	
12:15 – 1:00 p.m.	Student & Parent Interviews Enrolled, no longer enrolled, graduates, representative of school demographics	External Review Team (divide team members)
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Digital Learning System Observations: Admissions, Digital Learning Classrooms, Technology , Student Services	External Review Team
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Staff Interviews Teachers, Support Staff , include representation from all departments	External Review Team (divide team members)
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Stakeholder Interviews Community/Business), additional stakeholders	External Review Team (divide team members)
4:30 p.m.	Return to hotel	External Review Team
4:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Team Work Session #2 / Dinner	External Review Team

<Insert Date> Day 2

Time	Event	Who
7:20 a.m.	Check out of hotel and departure for school	External Review Team
7:45 a.m.	Arrival at school	External Review Team
8:00 a.m.– 10:00 a.m.	Follow-up: interviews to verify standard indicators; additional Digital Learning environment review; artifact review	External Review Team Principal / Leadership Team or School Improvement Team
10:00 a.m.– 2:00 a.m.	Team Work Session #3 Includes a working lunch Finalize ratings, discussions, deliberations, completion of Exit Report	External Review Team
2:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Final meeting with Principal	External Review Team Lead Evaluator Principal
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Exit Report given by External Review Lead Evaluator	External Review Team School Stakeholders
3:00 p.m.	Conclusion of External Review	