

## Accreditation Standards

- **Standard 1:**  
Purpose and Direction
- **Standard 2:**  
Governance and Leadership
- **Standard 3:**  
Teaching and Assessing for Learning
- **Standard 4:**  
Resources and Support Systems
- **Standard 5:**  
Using Results for Continuous Improvement

### DISTRICT VISION

We inspire a lifelong passion for learning.

### DISTRICT MISSION

We prepare all students to achieve excellence by providing the highest quality education while empowering each individual to positively impact their families, communities, and the world.

### CORE VALUES

- ACCOUNTABILITY
- INTEGRITY
- CITIZENSHIP
- PERSONAL GROWTH
- EXCELLENCE
- RESPECT



**Okaloosa County  
School District**

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**DISTRICT ACCREDITATION**

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## Who is AdvancED ?

**AdvancED** is the world's largest education accreditation organization. It brings together more than 100 years experience and the expertise of the three largest U.S.-based accreditation agencies—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). **AdvancED** also accredits private and public schools internationally in over 70 countries.



## What is System Accreditation?

Accreditation is a method of quality assurance designed to distinguish schools adhering to a set of educational standards. The accreditation process is a roadmap to improve overall student achievement and organizational effectiveness. System accreditation incorporates a performance-based model that has a five year cycle of continuous improvement for all schools. System accreditation accredits all

schools: Elementary, K-8 and K-12 Centers, Middle, Senior High Schools throughout the District simultaneously. System accreditation is comprised of each school conducting a self-evaluation, a District organizational evaluation, and finally an independent external review. The system accreditation will be conducted by **AdvancED**



## How Does Our District Become an Accredited System?

Once every five years, the Okaloosa County School District will participate in **AdvancED's** personalized accreditation process to renew our accreditation. **AdvancED's** accreditation process is comprehensive, evaluating all the parts of the institution, empowering our district to make the best use of our talents and resources. The process focuses on our vision and goals, evaluates teaching and learning, and examines how results are documented and resources allocated. The five **AdvancED** Standards are the foundation of the accreditation process and serve as the guide to continuous improvement. Through an extensive Internal Review of the standards, student performance data and stakeholder feedback data, the district will prepare for the External Review Team's visit. During this visit, **AdvancED** team members visit selected schools and the district office to confirm findings from the Internal Review conducted by the district and schools. These team members conduct interviews with all stakeholder groups—staff, students, parents, community members—in order to collect information about alignment to **AdvancED** standards and policies.

In addition, team members visit classrooms within selected schools to collect evidence for Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning. At the end of the External Review, the Team Leader shares preliminary findings with our district to identify our accreditation standing. A formal report identifying the district's renewal status and outlining Areas of Commendation and Areas in Need of Improvement is submitted by the team to **AdvancED**. A copy of this report is posted on our district's website in the Accreditation area at the following web address: <http://www.okaloosaschools.com/content/district-accreditation>

## What Does Accreditation Mean for Students, Parents, and the School District?

Students gain greater access to federal loans, scholarships, military programs and colleges that require students to attend accredited institutions.

Parents gain confidence in knowing their child's school is accredited and that it meets international standards for quality in education.



Through system accreditation, Okaloosa County School District will unite with a global network committed to standards of excellence. System accreditation nurtures and supports individual school improvement while aligning it with the overall school district improvement.