

Martin County School District Oral Exit Report

Quality Assurance Review Team
District Accreditation

A Picture of AdvancED



World's Largest Educational Community

- 23,000 public and private schools
- 30 states and Navajo Nation
- Department of Defense Education Activity
- 65 countries
- 15 million students
- 18,000 volunteers
- 3 million plus teachers

A Picture of AdvancED

Dedicated to Advancing Excellence in Education through:

Accreditation

- Standards, continuous improvement, quality assurance
- **NCA CASI and SACS CASI** are the accreditation divisions of AdvancED

Professional Services

- Professional development, technical assistance, conferences, consulting

Research and Innovation

- Publications, resources, tools, evaluation
- NSSE serves as our research and innovation division of AdvancED



District Accreditation

A national protocol for school systems committed to systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement

- Builds the capacity of the system and its schools to increase and sustain student learning
- Stimulates and supports improvement and effectiveness throughout the system

District Accreditation

- Ensures all people, processes, departments and operations of the system work in concert
- Strengthens efforts to meet accountability requirements
- Encourages growth beyond compliance to achieve excellence
- Promotes continuous not episodic improvement

Systems Approach

District Accreditation applies a systems approach to improvement. It examines how all elements of the school system work in concert for the benefit of student learning. It looks for examples of systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement.

- **Systemic improvement** – using and aligning the interdependent functions within and across the district to produce improvement
- **Systematic improvement** – fostering improvement efforts that are regular and predictable at all levels of the district
- **Sustainable improvement** – maintaining improvements over time

Pillars of Accreditation

To earn and maintain District Accreditation, districts must:

1. Meet the **AdvancED Quality Standards**
2. Engage in **Continuous Improvement**
3. Demonstrate **Quality Assurance** through Internal and External Review



Expectations

District

- Meets the *AdvancED* Standards for Quality Systems
- Identifies and guides the implementation of a systemic continuous improvement process
- Monitors its schools through a quality assurance process
- Prepares and hosts a QAR visit every five years

Schools

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

Purpose & Role of the Quality Assurance Review Team

1. Determine the extent to which the district meets the *AdvancED* standards.
2. Assess the efficacy of the district's improvement efforts.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the district's methods for quality assurance.
4. Provide high-quality feedback with clear recommendations and actionable next steps.
5. Make an accreditation recommendation.

Activities of the Quality Assurance Review Team

- Artifacts/documents review
- Interviews
- School visits
- Observations
- Professional deliberations

Interviews with Stakeholders

- During the on-site Quality Assurance Review, team members interviewed:
 - 45 Administrators
 - 120 Teachers
 - 7 Support Staff
 - 43 Parents, community, and business partners
 - 79 Students
 - 4 Board members

TOTAL of 298 stakeholders

Criteria Used to Arrive at the Team's Findings

- When reviewing evidence to arrive at its findings, the team:
 - Sought a district perspective;
 - Pursued evidence that could be corroborated through multiple sources;
 - Examined the context and capacity of the district in relation to its vision, mission, and beliefs; and
 - Applied the criteria for accreditation.

Structure of Team's Findings

Strengths

- Strong and effective practices, processes, or systems which benefit the school district

Commendations

- Significant accomplishments in meeting and/or exceeding accreditation standards and requirements

Challenges

- Limitations and/or barriers that may be impacting (or have the potential to impact) the district's performance and effectiveness

Recommendations

- Actions that will enhance district effectiveness and improve student learning

Strengths

- Shared vision of high expectations and student achievement
- Collaboration with community agencies
- Communication of student learning data during the year (Pinnacle) and at the end of the year (FCAT)
- Stability of teachers and administrators

Strengths

- Growing diversity
- Benchmark and common assessments
- Implementation of Crisis Plans, evidenced this week
- Attention to facilities and maintenance

Commendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team commends the Martin County School District for:

- 3 Nationally Certified Career Technical Education programs
- Top 5 system FCAT writing scores in 3 grades
- 7th consecutive year as an “A” district
- 16 “A” and 3 “B” schools in 2008

Commendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team commends the Martin County School District for:

- Superintendent's communication efforts
- Data collection and analysis for student learning
- Well-regarded Instructional Technology and Exceptional Student Education departments

Challenges

- Using results of the management review completed by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents
- Attending to Adequate Yearly Progress results
- Growing diversity
- Succession plans for leadership positions
- Reliable communication structures and collaboration among central office administrators and with school-based administrators

Recommendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team recommends that the Martin County School District:

- Develop, implement, and monitor a plan to ensure that the Superintendent and the Board of Education work together in ways that benefit the school district (Standard 2).
- Launch a needs assessment and construct a district plan to support and monitor the implementation of relevant professional development (Standards 3, 5, 7).

Recommendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team recommends that the Martin County School District:

- Implement a comprehensive Strategic Planning process with an examination of vision, plan, profile, and results that involves all stakeholders (Standards 1, 4, 7).
- Collect and analyze data related to instructional effectiveness and include these data in all continuous improvement planning (Standards 3, 4, 7).

Next Steps

- Written report of findings submitted within 30 days
- After receipt of the report, the district is expected to:
 - Review and communicate the findings.
 - Address the recommendations.
 - Monitor accreditation standards on ongoing basis.
 - Monitor strategies for improvement.
 - Submit the Accreditation Progress Report.

Accreditation Recommendation

- The Quality Assurance Review Team recommends to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission that the **Martin County School District** be awarded District Accreditation as a quality school system.
- Once reviewed and approved by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, the district and all its schools are granted a 5-year term accreditation.

Final Thoughts

- On behalf of the Quality Assurance Team, I extend:
 - Our **appreciation** for your hospitality, support, and professionalism;
 - Our **respect** and acknowledgement of the quality of the school district; and
 - Our **congratulations** for your progress toward achieving District Accreditation as a quality system.

*AdvancED District Accreditation
for Quality Systems
www.advanc-ed.org*

*...helping schools
and school systems
improve student
learning*

