

Christian Academy School System

Oral Exit Report

February 24, 2010

Quality Assurance Review Team

District Accreditation

A Picture of AdvancED



World's Largest Educational Community

- 27,000 public and private schools
- 30 states and Navajo Nation
- Department of Defense Education Activity
- 65 countries (including Latin America)
- 15 million students
- 18,000 volunteers
- 3 million plus teachers

District Accreditation

A national 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

Applies a systems approach to improvement

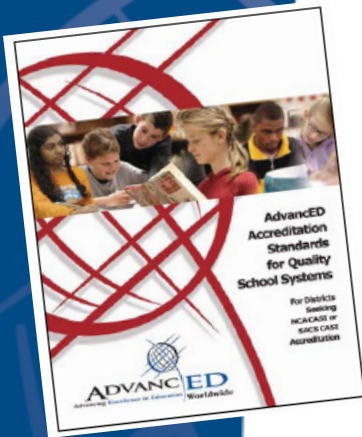
- Examines how all elements (*people, processes, departments and operations*) of the district work in a unified, coordinated and integrated way in pursuit of a shared vision

Promotes improvement that is continuous not episodic

Strengthens efforts to meet accountability requirements and encourages growth beyond compliance to achieve excellence

AdvancED

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

Biblical Integration

Schools are Expected to

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

QAR Team Activities

The Team Collects Data

- Listens to district presentations
- Interviews samples of all district stakeholder groups
- Examines relevant documents and artifacts
- Visits a representative sample of schools
- Observes practices and the learning environment

The Team Engages in Professional Deliberations

- Uses evidence to guide analysis, discussion, and decision-making

Data Collection

During the on-site Quality Assurance Review, team members visited **7** schools and interviewed:

- **9** Board members
- **32** Administrators
- **59** Teachers
- **47** Support staff
- **76** Parents, community, and business partners
- **83** Students

TOTAL of 306 stakeholders

The QAR Team

Delivers high quality feedback

- Assesses each standard and writes narratives that describe evidence, highlight strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Provides commendations that identify and celebrate noteworthy accomplishments
- Defines required actions to help the district improve

Communicates findings in oral and written formats

Makes an accreditation recommendation for national review

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

Required Actions

- Actions that will enhance district effectiveness and improve student learning

Strengths

- **The Christian Academy School System demonstrates consistent fidelity to their mission across all programs and operations.**
- **The Christian Academy School System creates a safe, nurturing, learning and Christian climate that engages students, faculty, administration, and parents.**
- **The Christian Academy School System is committed to providing a relevant and rigorous 21st century curriculum grounded in a Biblical worldview.**
- **Teachers and administrators are responsive to parent and student needs.**
- **Christian Academy School System has embraced technology to improve communication and to enhance teaching and to improve learning.**

Commendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team commends **Christian Academy School System** for:

- remaining true to the original mission of the school
- a positive school climate that promotes learning for all students
- developing a comprehensive profile that is being utilized for communication and enrollment processes
- a commitment to a rigorous and relevant curriculum that meets the needs of 21st century Christian learners

Challenges

- Data collection measuring the impact of classroom instruction, curriculum, and student learning is needed.
- The lack of data analysis to impact classroom instruction, curricular changes and student learning.
- Learning to function as a system of schools will require planning and commitment by all stakeholders.
- Debt is impeding the development of programs that stakeholders desire in the fulfillment of the strategic plan.
- Increasing enrollment is difficult due to a lack of adequate tuition assistance in the current economic environment.
- Lack of an operational understanding and application of the Christian Academy School System's vision means it does not drive instruction and learning.

Required Actions

- The Quality Assurance Review Team recommends that **Christian Academy School System:**
 - Develop a comprehensive assessment program that assists teachers in making curricular and instructional decisions on a regular basis
 - Examine additional ways to meet the needs of a wider range of exceptional learners across all grade levels
 - Continue to implement plans for increasing operational revenues and improving operational efficiencies
 - Continue to improve communication among all stakeholder groups
 - Work for consistent policies, procedures and practices that will impact operations, curriculum, instruction and learning across all campuses to develop a stronger school system

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
 - Monitor school and system accreditation standards and improvement efforts on ongoing basis
 - Submit the Accreditation Progress Report.
- **After the next meeting of the AdvancED Accreditation Commission (January and June) reports will be available for public access**

Accreditation Recommendation

- The Quality Assurance Review Team recommends to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission that the **Christian Academy School System** 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.