



# *Accreditation: A System of Support for Continuous Improvement*



**NDE Day  
Administrators' Days  
July 30, 2014**

# Rule 10 Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools



## 001.03 Accreditation Requirement.

All public school districts in Nebraska that provide elementary and/or secondary instruction to children of compulsory attendance age are required to be accredited under the provisions of this Chapter.

# Rule 10 Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools

**009.01A** The school system develops and implements a continuous school improvement process to promote quality learning for all students. This process includes procedures and strategies to address quality learning, equity, and accountability. In public schools, the process incorporates multicultural education as described in 004.01F. In all school systems, the continuous school improvement process includes the following activities at least once within each five years.

***Two Processes Recognized by NDE***

# State Accreditation



## A Handbook for Continuous Improvement in Nebraska Schools

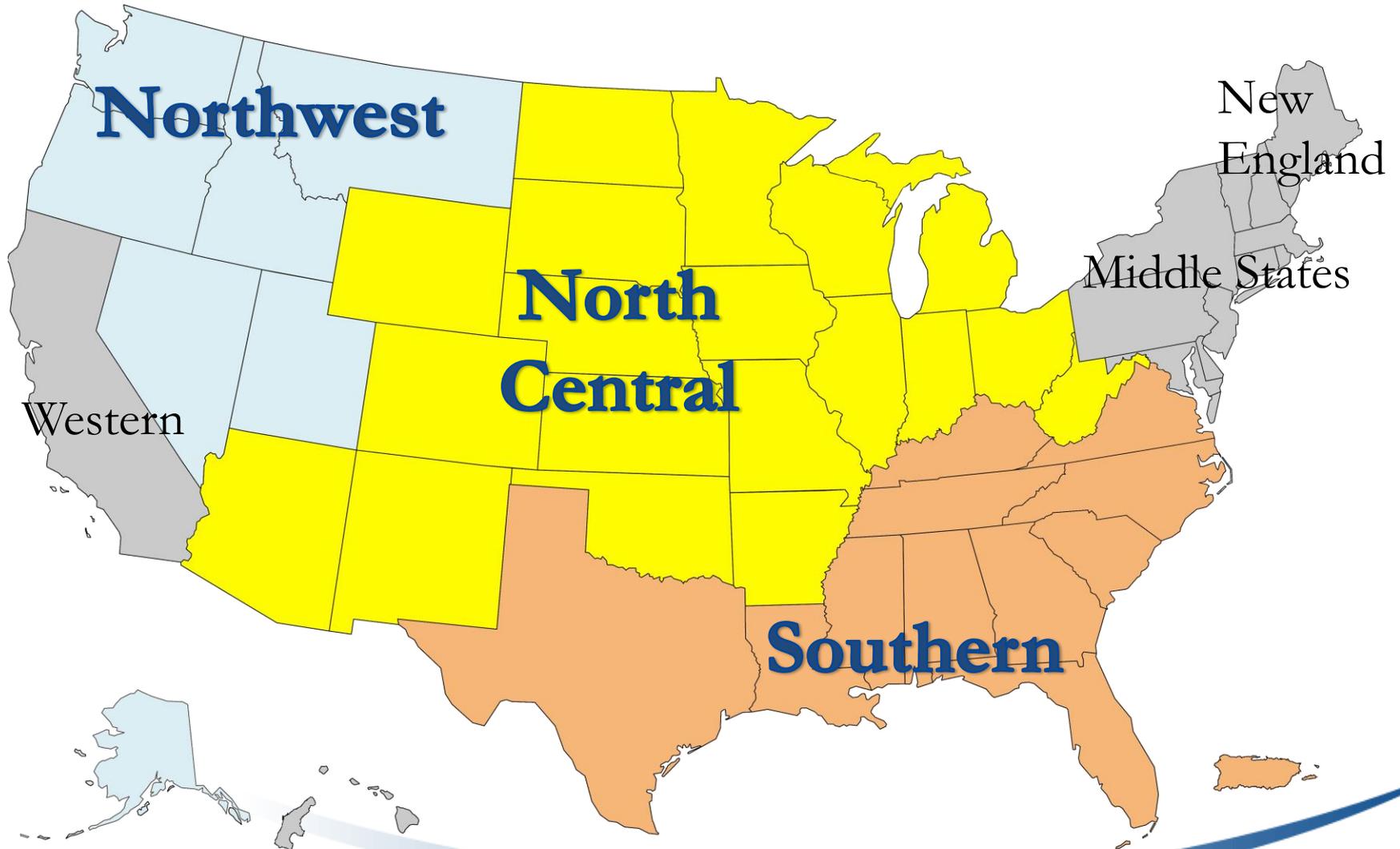


NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## The Nebraska Framework



# Regional Accreditation



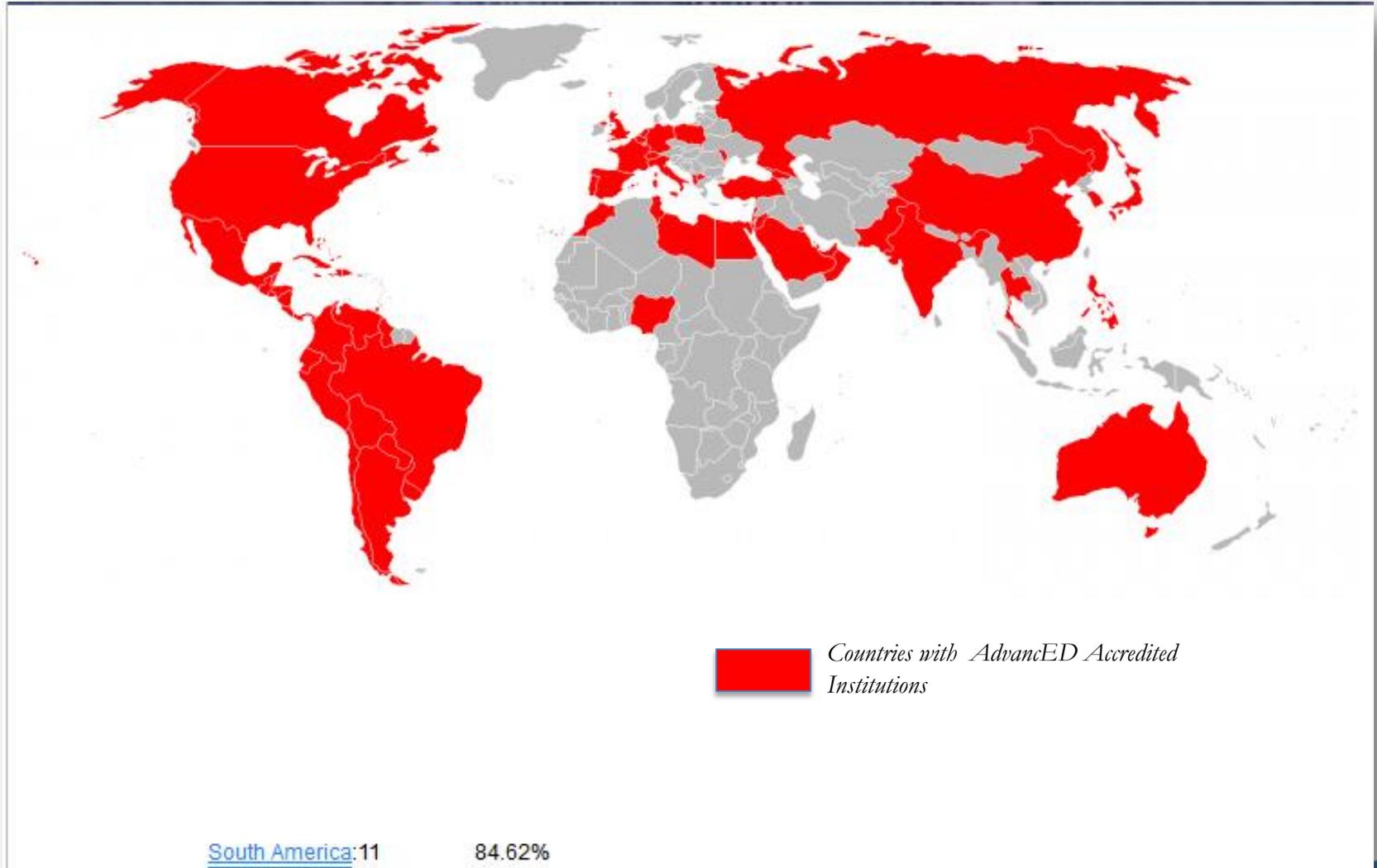


## AdvancED Offers...

- educational technologies
- advocacy
- improvement and accreditation services

...to education providers of all types in their pursuit of excellence in serving students.

# AdvancED Around the World



# AdvancED History

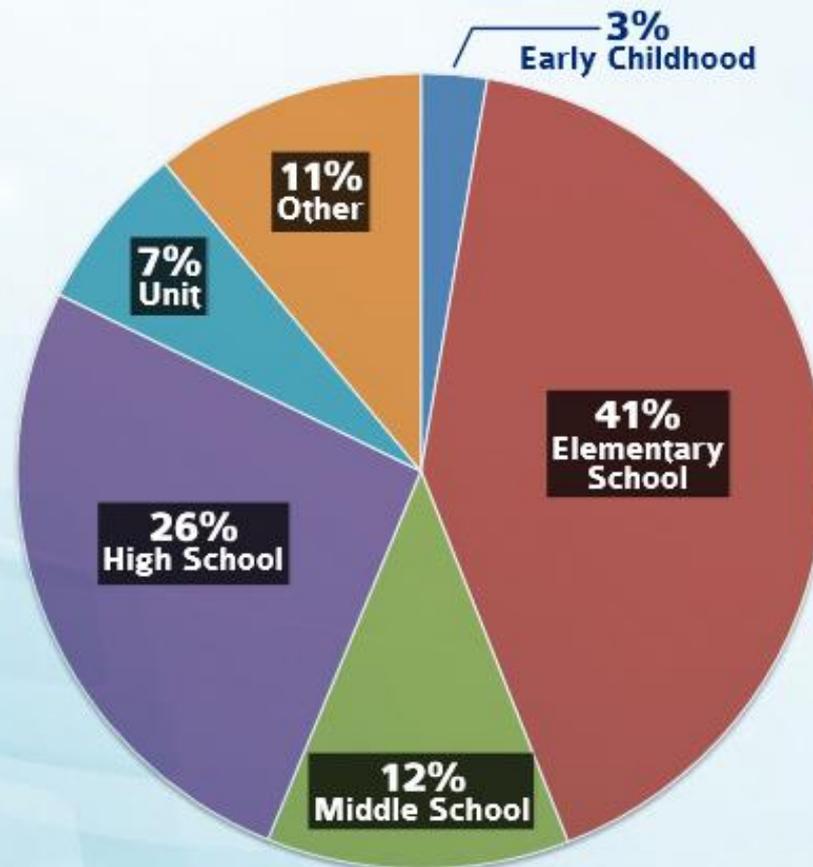
- Established in 2006 with the unification of NCA CASI, SACS CASI, and NSSE. Created to provide a national and international voice on issues of education quality.
- Integrated the accreditation functions of NCA CASI and SACS CASI into the Accreditation Division located in Tempe.
- Closed NSSE Schaumburg office in 2008 and integrated NSSE into the Innovation Division located in Alpharetta.
- Acquired CITA in fall of 2008.
- Welcomed NWAC as an accreditation division in 2011.
- Accredited under the brand names of NCA CASI, NWAC and SACS CASI.

# Institutions Served

## Who We Serve

-  Early Childhood
-  Elementary School
-  Middle School
-  High School
-  Unit
-  Other\*

\*Educational institutions include American International, Career Technical, College Preparatory, Distance Education, Postsecondary, International Overseas, Supplementary and Special Purpose.



AdvancED currently serves more than 30,000 institutions, which includes schools engaged in school improvement but not yet accredited.

# Nebraska AdvancED Schools Served

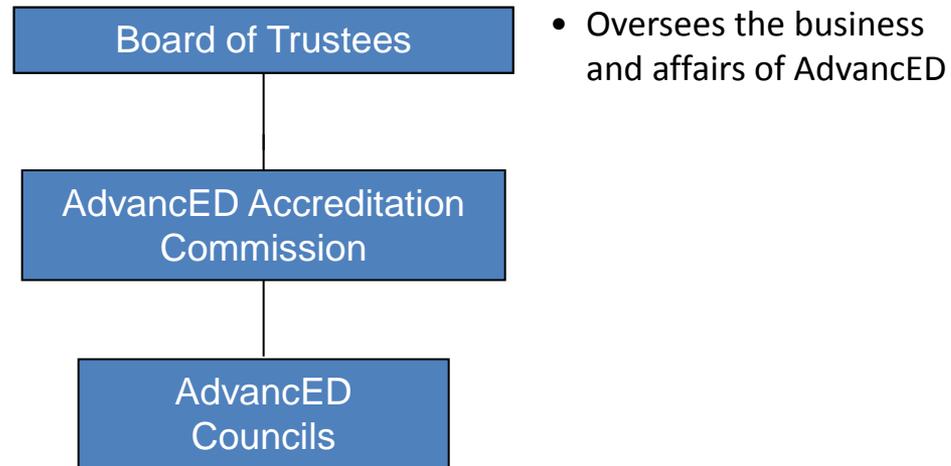
54%  
Of All  
Nebraska  
Public School  
Districts have  
One or More  
Buildings in  
AdvancED/NCA  
Accreditation

29%  
are in Systems  
Accreditation

70% of ESUs  
AdvancED Accredited

Many of  
Nebraska  
Nonpublic  
Schools are  
involved with  
AdvancED/  
NCA  
Accreditation

# Governance and Operations Structure



## AdvancED Accreditation Commission

- Govern accreditation matters pertaining to all schools and districts
- Grant accreditation status

## AdvancED Councils

- Provide guidance and leadership to managing offices
- Make accreditation recommendations to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission

## What is Accreditation?

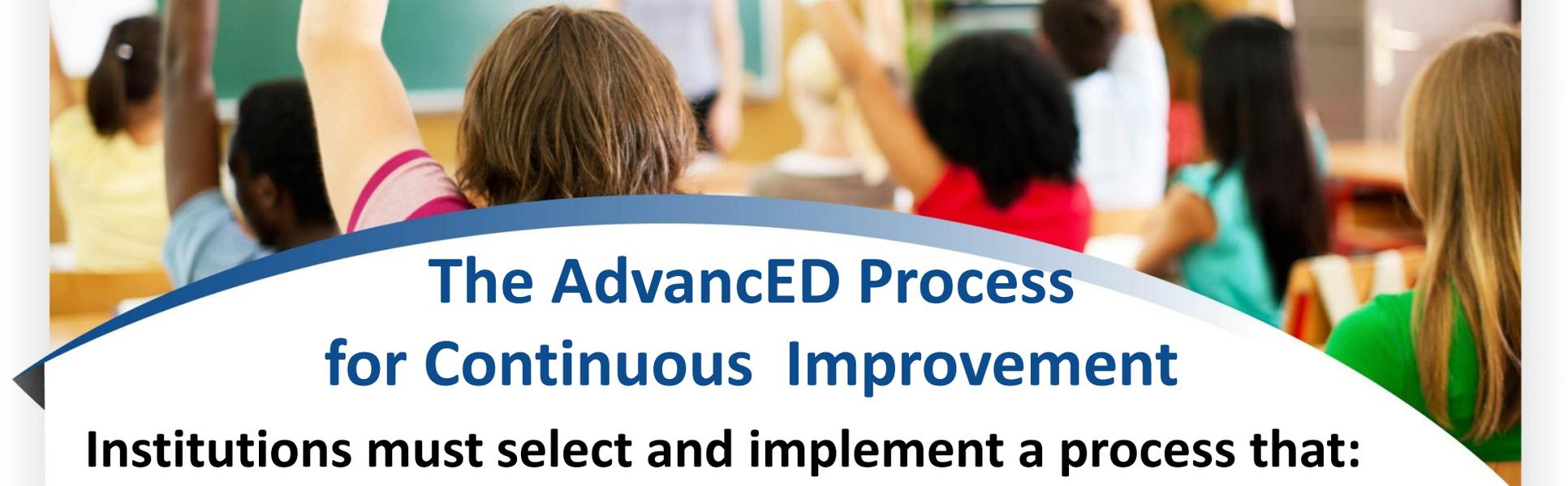
- Accreditation is a voluntary method of quality assurance developed more than 100 years ago by American schools and universities.
- The goal of accreditation is to evaluate, verify and improve the institution's quality.
- Accreditation is the recognition that the institution meets high quality standards, engages in continuous improvement and produces quality results.

# About the Standards

- The AdvancED Standards are research-based, comprehensive quality statements that describe conditions necessary to achieve and maintain high levels of student performance and organizational effectiveness
- Format
  - Statements (5)
  - Indicators (33/35)
    - Rated individually
    - Contain multiple concepts
    - Four-Level Performance Rubrics

# AdvancED Standards...





## The AdvancED Process for Continuous Improvement

**Institutions must select and implement a process that:**

- comprehensively addresses continuous improvement
- a **performance-based** model that employs diagnostic tools for schools/systems to conduct Internal Reviews focused on evaluating performance related to:
  - Standards and Indicators
  - Student Performance Results
  - Stakeholder Feedback Results
- *satisfies local, state, federal improvement process requirements*
- is implemented in a **systematic, systemic** and **sustainable** manner

# Continuous Improvement



- Internal Review
- External Review

# Continuous Quality Assurance

## Continuous Internal Review

- The institution:
  - Ensures standards are met and strengthened
  - Monitors and documents improvement
  - Collects, uses, and communicates results to improve student performance, stakeholder feedback and school effectiveness

## External Review

- Once every five years, the institution hosts an External Review Team
  - Off-Site and On-Site Reviews
  - Led by certified Lead Evaluator

# The External Review

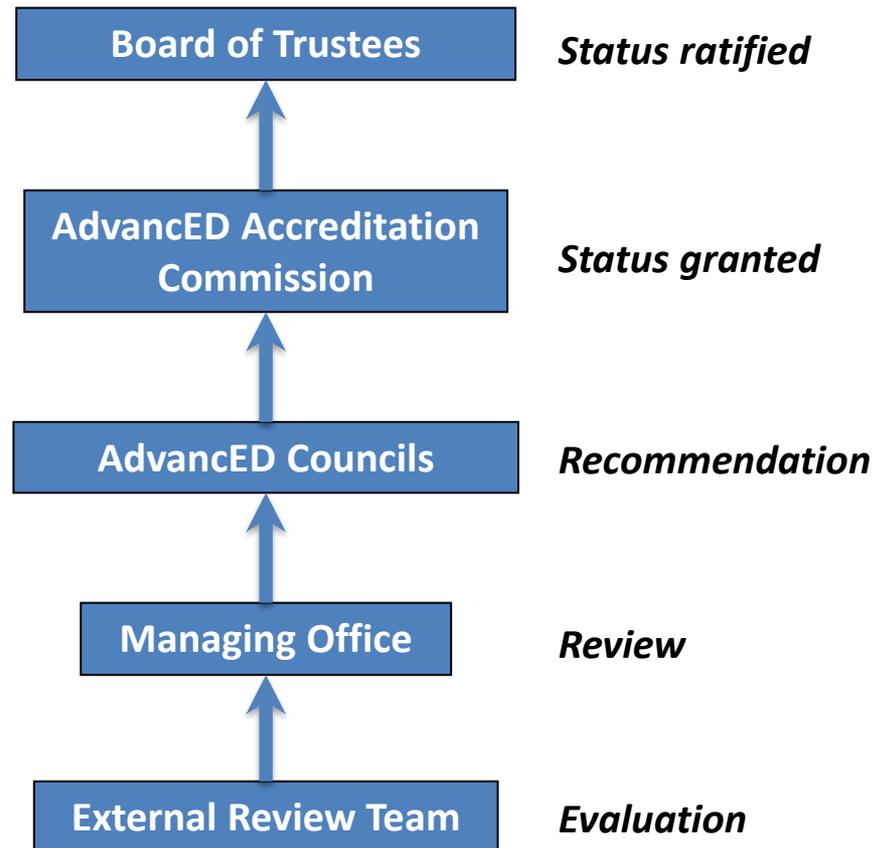
- Provides a sustainable, stable, systemic process of continuous improvement
- Provides an institution with the opportunity to identify and leverage its strengths
- Provides objective, meaningful, evidence based feedback that stimulates and drives improvement

# External Review Team

- The External Review Team collects information:
  - Conducts Interviews
  - Reviews documents/artifacts provided by the institution
  - Makes professional observations
- The External Review Team:
  - Engages in professional deliberations
  - Reaches consensus on Standards, Powerful Practices, Required Actions and an accreditation recommendation
  - Creates and presents an oral exit report
  - Formulates and submits a written report

# Accreditation Decision Process

Institutions are granted accreditation for a 5-year term



# Diagnostic Tools for Continuous Improvement

## ***Effective use of the AdvancED Diagnostic Tools promotes:***

- Systemic, sustainable and systematic improvement efforts
- Commitment to improvement efforts that are beyond mere compliance
- Collaborative processes that are vital for effective school improvement



# Tools for Internal and External Review

- The AdvancED process uses the same set of Diagnostic Tools for both Internal and External Reviews
- The Tools contain Performance Levels that provide a framework for continuous quality improvement



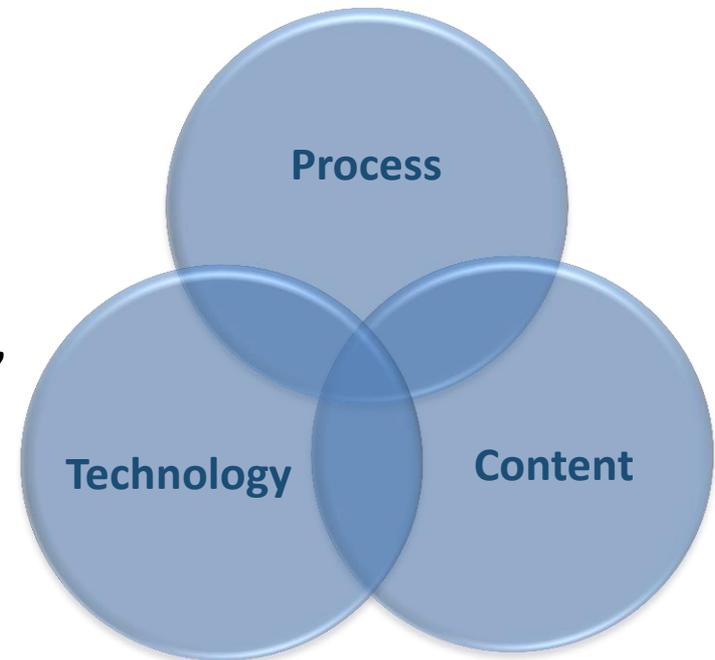
# Institution Expectations

- Meet AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools/Systems
- Implement a continuous improvement process
- Update Demographics
- Conduct Internal Review
  - Executive Summary
  - Standards Self Assessment
  - Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic
  - Student Performance Diagnostic
  - Improvement Plan
  - Assurances
- Host External Review once every five years
- Respond to Required Actions in the Accreditation Progress Report



# ASSIST

- ASSIST (Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools) supports end-to-end management of school improvement and accreditation processes
- ASSIST brings together process, content and technology in a fully integrated system
- ASSIST incorporates AdvancED standards and indicators as well as customized content



# Standards Self Assessment

- Standards – statements of quality
  - Create a process to gather and analyze data
  - Rate Indicators – descriptive targets
    - Determine Performance Level
    - Identify supporting evidence
  - Write a short standard narrative

## Executive Summary: “Telling the Story”

- Describe and celebrate who you are
- Define the institution’s purpose and direction
- Identify achievements, accomplishments and challenges
- Incorporate additional information
- “There is a lot of real estate available in the Executive Summary. Take advantage of it!”

# AdvancED's Approach to Student Performance

- Allows multiple assessments and multiple administrations
- Provides a comprehensive picture of student performance over time
- Allows review of results through the lens of status, improvement and/or growth



# Overview: Stakeholder Feedback

- Valid and reliable items on all surveys
- Engages all stakeholders (parents, students, staff)
- Administered at least once prior to the External Review
- Requires minimum response rates  
(20% parents, 40% students, 60% staff)
- Informs school improvement
- Available for use at any time

# A Quality Improvement Plan

- Aligns improvement goals with diagnostic results
- Requires collaboration
- Focuses on manageable number of priorities
- Builds shared commitment to purpose and direction
- Communicates purpose and direction clearly to others
- Results in student achievement gains

# Goals and Improvement Plan

- Develop and implement a comprehensive plan
  - Develop goals based on data collected from Self Assessment, Student Performance, Stakeholder Feedback Surveys
  - Monitor impact and analyze results
- Use ASSIST or upload your own
  - Includes goals, objectives, strategies and activities
- Use of ASSIST Goals & Plans required for Accreditation Progress Report

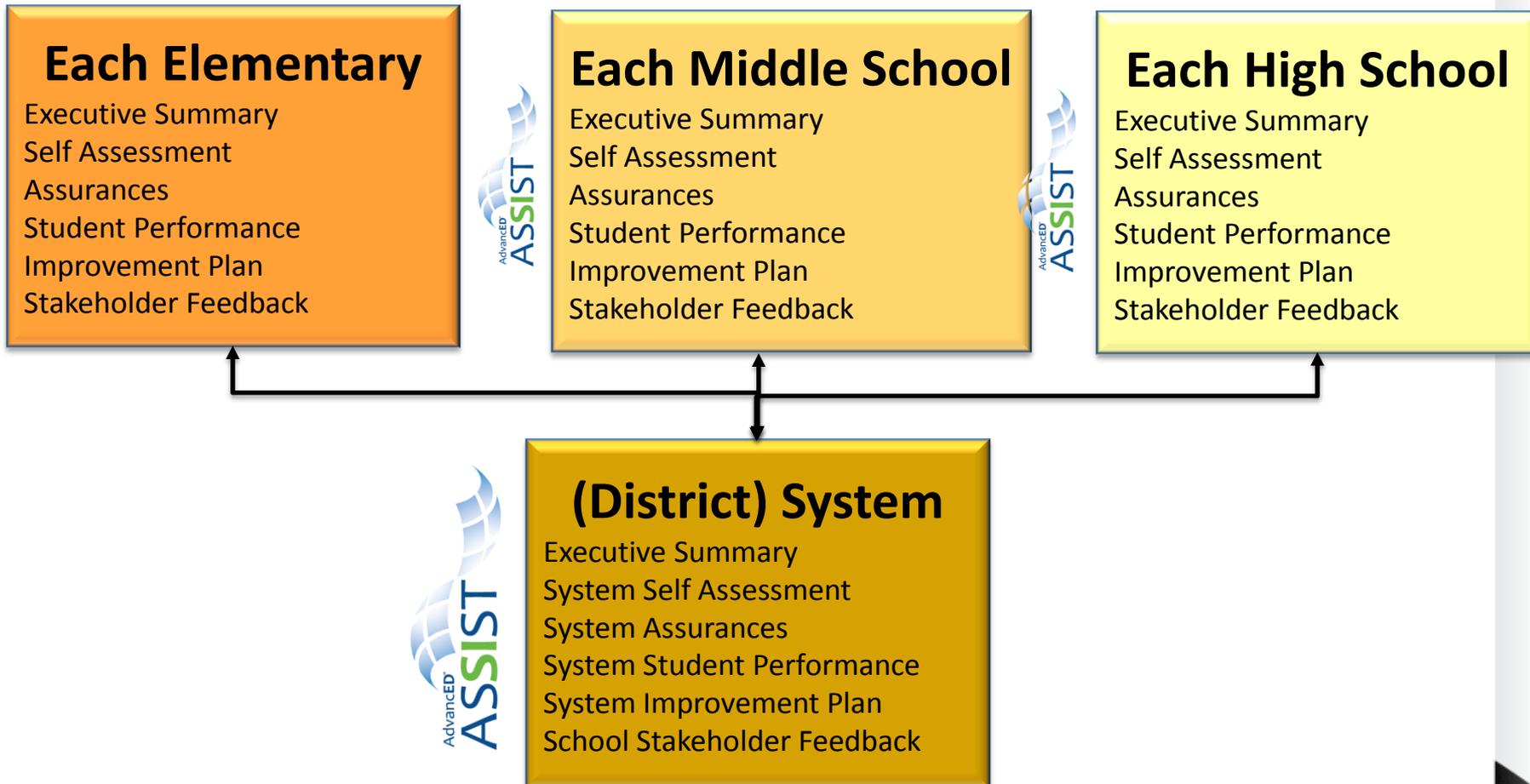
# Assurances

- Respond to the AdvancED and other applicable assurances
  - Governmental assurances
  - Partnerships
- Usually Yes/No “compliance-type” questions
- Upload documents and cite evidence where appropriate

## External Review Team Members: Systems

- Team size determined by the size of the system and the AdvancED State Office (NDE)
- Led by an out-of-state AdvancED Lead Evaluator
- Supported by in-state Associate Lead Evaluator
- Team members are in-state and out-of-state
- Team members must complete Team Member Training including ELEOT certification

# School Systems (District) Accreditation



**1 Review = 1 AdvancED Report**

## External Review Team Members: Schools

- Team size determined by the size of the school and the AdvancED State Office (NDE)
- Lead Evaluator and Associate Lead are assigned by AdvancED State Office (NDE)  
(Lead Evaluator Training Required)
- Team members must complete Team Member Training and ELEOT certification

# School Accreditation (All Buildings: AdvancED)



## Elementary

Executive Summary  
Self Assessment  
Assurances  
Student Performance  
Improvement Plan  
Stakeholder Feedback



## Middle School

Executive Summary  
Self Assessment  
Assurances  
Student Performance  
Improvement Plan  
Stakeholder Feedback



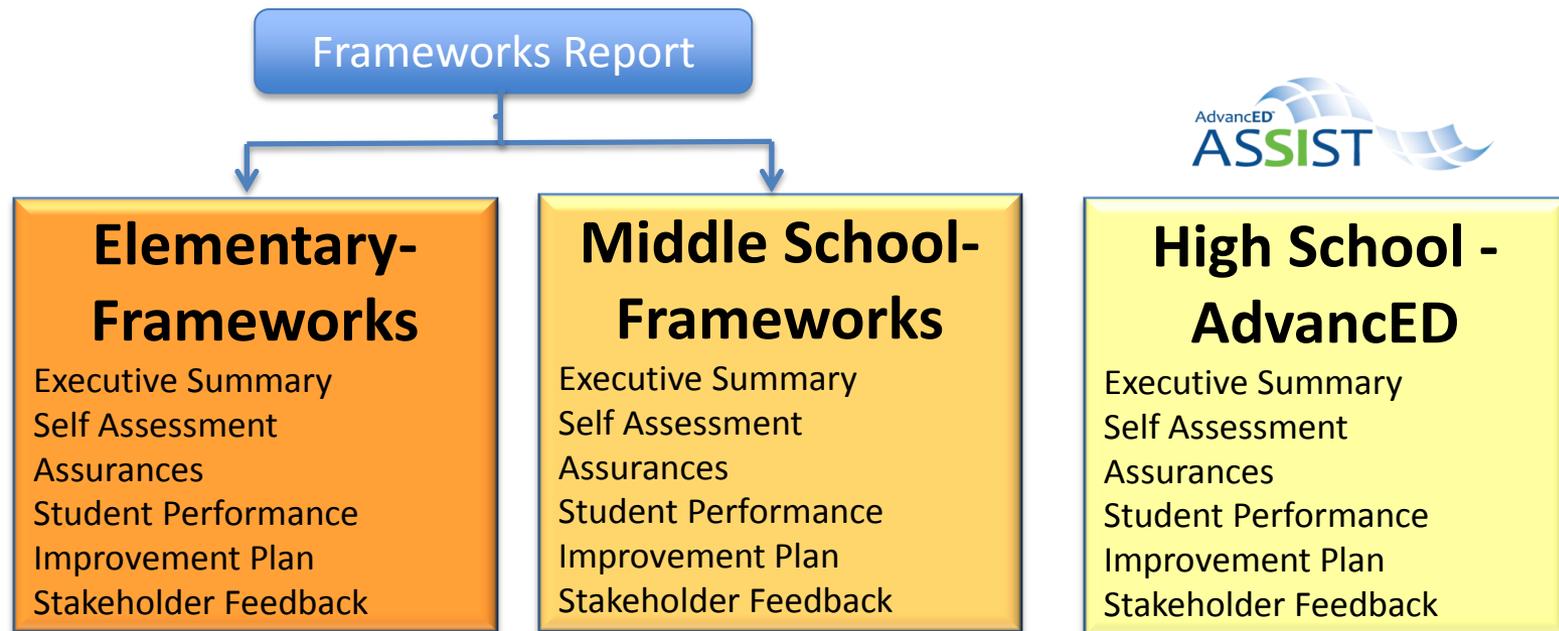
## High School

Executive Summary  
Self Assessment  
Assurances  
Student Performance  
Improvement Plan  
Stakeholder Feedback

**3 Buildings = 3 Reviews = 3 Reports**

# School Accreditation

## Combination – AdvancED & Frameworks



**1 Review/Visit = 1 AdvancED Report +  
1 Frameworks Report**

# Index of Education Quality

- Launched with 2013-14 school year
- Graphical and numerical method to measure institutional performance
- Based on the indicators and evaluative criteria
- Identifies areas of success as well as areas for improvement
- Provided in the External Review report and on ASSIST™



## Aiken Elementary School

Search

2050 Pine Log Road  
Aiken, SC 29803  
803-641-2740



Update

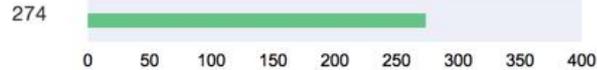
## Documents

Portfolio

	Due	Status
<a href="#">Accreditation Report</a>	January 31, 2014	Submitted
<a href="#">External Review Report</a>	March 14, 2014	Approved
<a href="#">Accreditation Progress Report - Schools With Early Learning</a>	May 1, 2016	Not started

## Index of Educational Quality™

Overall Score



## Domains

Teaching and Learning Impact



Leadership Capacity



Resource Utilization



## About the IEQ™

The Index of Education Quality (IEQ) provides institutions a holistic measure of their overall performance based on a comprehensive set of indicators and evaluative criteria. As a formative tool for improvement, it graphically pinpoints areas of success as well as areas in need of support and/or focus.

The IEQ is comprised of three domains: 1) the impact of teaching and learning on student performance; 2) the leadership capacity to govern; and 3) use of resources and data to support and optimize learning. IEQ domain scores are derived from the AdvancedED Standards and Indicators ratings; results of the Analysis of Student Performance; and data from Stakeholder Feedback Surveys (students, parents, and staff).

The IEQ interface allows institutions to immediately review their outcomes (performance levels) for individual indicators and criteria providing a valuable source of guidance for continuous improvement.

# Benefits of Accreditation

- External Mark of Quality
- High Standards
- Proven Improvement Processes
- Vehicle to Meet Governmental Requirements
- Professional Services
- Technical Assistance
- Peer Review and Support
- Research-Based Products and Services
- Credit Reciprocity
- Access to Scholarships and Higher Education Opportunities

# Paradigm Shift

In the past the External Review was viewed as a culminating ***event***.



Consider the External Review your foundation for ***continuous*** improvement.

# The Future

- Education occurs any time, any where
- Learners of all ages continually increase their knowledge, skills and dispositions for success
- State and national performance standards are superseded by global performance expectations
- Schools and school systems participate in a global education arena with many education providers
- The quest for improvement never ends



**Questions?**

*Thank you for your time.*



 **AdvancED**<sup>TM</sup> *The power of education can change the world.*

# Find Us!



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@AdvancEDorg and @MarkElgart



[www.youtube.com/AdvancEDorg](http://www.youtube.com/AdvancEDorg)



## Resources:

[www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org)

[www.advanc-ed.org/schoolresources](http://www.advanc-ed.org/schoolresources)

[www.advanc-ed.org/systemsresources](http://www.advanc-ed.org/systemsresources)

[www.advanc-ed.org/earlylearningresources](http://www.advanc-ed.org/earlylearningresources)

