

Henry County AdvancEd Accreditation Information

Henry County Schools have been accredited by AdvancEd (formally Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) for many years. In the past each school has undergone an individual five-year visit; however, this year Henry County will undergo accreditation as a district for the first time. Instead of each school having an External Visiting Team, our district will have one External Team visit. Each school will still conduct its own Internal Review and file an Executive Summary. In addition each school will administer surveys to staff, parents, and students. The following is an overview of the process giving us the why, and how of the accreditation process.

Why Accreditation?

The AdvancEd process gives us the opportunity to conduct a meaningful examination of our schools which requires a thorough, hands-on, systematic approach that looks beyond simple test scores and textbook counts. It enables us to have the capacity to increase and sustain student learning.

How does the accreditation process work?

We follow the protocol of AdvancEd to assure quality and fidelity in the process. Analyzing practices and processes that impact student learning is a common practice of the Henry County School System. The AdvancEd Accreditation Process is a great way help us continue on the path of improvement by taking an honest look at our schools. Good schools are always expected to be works in progress. Do we have priorities for improvement? Are we actively implementing strategies to achieve them? Do we have stakeholder support for our efforts? In answering these questions, our district and schools will complete a SELF ASSESSMENT. Using the five quality standards of AdvancEd each school and our district will analyze our effectiveness in meeting each standard. The SELF ASSESSMENT should be visited thoroughly by the staffs of each of our schools as well as stakeholder groups. We will SURVEY staff, parents, and students. The results of the surveys will be analyzed and will be included in the district's final report. Included in the diagnostics will be our SURVEYS and a multi-year report of our ACADEMIC DATA. Each school and our district will submit an EXECUTIVE SUMMARY which gives us the opportunity to tell our story and identify our strengths and areas to improve. Finally we will have our EXTERNAL REVIEW. The EXTERNAL REVIEW will be conducted by a team of five members. Two members will be out-of-state and three members will be from in-state.

Our entire school community should be involved in this process. We are proud of our work and proud of the fact that we realize the importance of growing as a district. To learn more about AdvancEd you can visit the website @ advance-ed.org

AdvancEd Standards of Quality School Systems

Standard 1: PURPOSE AND DIRECTION -The system 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 system operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and system effectiveness.

Standard 3: TEACHING AND ASSESSING FOR LEARNING – The system’s curriculum, instructional design and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.

Standard 4: RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS – The system has resources and provides services in all schools that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

Standard 5: USING RESULTS FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT - The system implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and system effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.