

Do I have a role in District Accreditation?

Yes. You can assist with District Accreditation by:

- Staying informed about your school's accreditation.
- Educating other parents about accreditation.
- Reinforcing the skills your school is teaching your children.
- Becoming an active member on your school's continuous improvement team and/or internal and external review process.
- Requesting and participating in opportunities to provide feedback to your school, i.e., parent surveys, focus groups, and parent meetings.
- Volunteering to assist during the district's Quality Assurance Review Visit.

What is the difference between District Accreditation and School Accreditation?

Accreditation has historically focused on individual schools. Most often, each school has determined whether it would engage in accreditation, which goals it would pursue, and what evidence would be used to determine success. Only recently has the district been perceived as a key leverage point for school improvement. Research now reveals that a school district is uniquely positioned to lead and support effective improvement of each of its schools.

Building on this research, AdvancED has developed an accreditation process specifically designed for school districts. The process invites school districts and their stakeholders to collaborate in reviewing the quality of the district's systems, the success of each individual school, and their collective contribution to student learning and overall district effectiveness.

About AdvancED

AdvancED is the world's largest education community, serving more than 30,000 public and private schools and districts across the United States and in more than 70 countries that educate over 16 million students. AdvancED is the global leader in advancing education excellence through accreditation and school improvement. The AdvancED Accreditation Process, a protocol embraced around the world, is a clear and comprehensive program of evaluation and external review, supported by research-based standards, and dedicated to helping schools, districts and education providers continuously improve.

How can I find out more about District Accreditation and the Accreditation process?

For more information about District Accreditation for the Zachary Community School District, please contact:

Yolanda Williams at 225-658-4969 or
Diane Stone at 225-658-4969

Zachary Community School District
3755 Church Street
Zachary, LA 70791

For more general information about the District Accreditation process visit the AdvancED website:

www.advanc-ed.org



ZACHARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Accreditation: A Guide For Parents



What is District Accreditation?

AdvancED District Accreditation is a powerful systems approach to improving student performance results and organizational effectiveness over time. District Accreditation recognizes that increasing student achievement involves more than improving instruction. It is a result of how well all the parts of the education system — the district, school, and classroom — work together to meet the needs of students.

What Does District Accreditation Mean to Me As A Parent?

A district's commitment to accreditation assures parents and the community that the schools in that district are focused on (a) raising student achievement; (b) providing a safe and enriching learning environment; and (c) maintaining an efficient and effective operation. An accredited school district adheres to high quality standards based on the latest research and successful professional practices.

District Accreditation means that the Zachary Community School District has opened its doors to review and support from parents, the community, and educators.

What are the benefits of District Accreditation?

District Accreditation serves as a framework that supports system wide continuous improvement focused directly on improving learning for all students. District Accreditation is a highly effective process for meeting and exceeding federal and state accountability requirements. In addition, District Accreditation:

- Supports and enhances a **common language of school improvement** across content areas and grade levels, as well as across individual schools, feeder schools, and school district lines of responsibility.
- Ensures **continuity and collaboration in planning for improvement** among all of the district's schools.
- Ensures that each school's **improvement goals** complement those of the school district.
- Provides the school district and community **with external review and recognition for improvement efforts**.
- Provides for **recommendations** designed to further the district's improvement efforts.
- Supports a **system-wide** approach to **achieving results**.
- Ensures **alignment and coordination** among all of the schools in the district.
- **Provides an internationally recognized mark of quality** for the school district and its schools, students, teachers, and the community.

How Does the Zachary Community School District Achieve Accreditation?

District Accreditation requires commitment from the district's leadership and Board of Education. The school district must have in place or in development a quality continuous improvement planning process focused on improving student learning. The school district commits to achieving and maintaining the following requirements:

• **Meet AdvancED Domains.**

1. Leadership Capacity
2. Learning Capacity
3. Resource Capacity

• **Engage in continuous process of improvement.**

An accredited district is committed to being better today than it was yesterday. The district and all of its schools identify a shared vision, maintain a district-wide profile of the current reality, establish plans and assess the implementation of interventions, and document the results of their efforts to improve student learning and school/district effectiveness.

- ### • **Demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review.**
- Internal review involves district and school stakeholders. External review involves feedback from experienced educators from outside the district. In both cases, reviewers examine evidence to determine if the district and its schools are meeting the standards and achieving the goals for improving student learning and school/district effectiveness.