

LEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*The Lee County School District in partnership with students, parents, and the community,
shall assure an excellent education for each and every child.*

TO: Staff, Parents, Students, & Lee County School District Stakeholders

FROM: James Evans, Jr., Superintendent

SUBJECT: Lee County School District Receives Praise and Recommendations from National Accreditation Team

DATE: November 3, 2010

On October 18th, 19th, and 20th, 2010, the Lee County School District hosted an AdvancED Quality Assurance Review Team that visited the district and each school to evaluate the district's adherence to the AdvancED accreditation standards and to make a recommendation for national accreditation.

Comprised of five trained professionals from across the state and nation, the team: reviewed district documents and performance data; interviewed over 126 district, school, and community stakeholders; conducted site visits to all schools; and observed district and school practices.

The team commended the district for an outstanding amount of pride and community involvement in the schools (the schools appear to be the "hub" of community activity); for having well maintained, safe and secure facilities with caring adults at all levels; and for providing multiple avenues of communication among all stakeholders including the Board, administrators, teachers, support staff, students, and community members.

In addition, the team recommended that the district develop a system of data analysis and job embedded professional development to modify instructional strategies across all levels, engage stakeholders in budget review, and implement strategies that promote higher level thinking skills for all students. The district will be developing plans to respond to and address these recommendations. In two years, the district must report to AdvancED its progress in addressing the team's recommendations.

Overall, the team found that Lee County School District met the requirements for AdvancED accreditation. The team announced that it will be recommending the district for District Accreditation. Their recommendation will be reviewed and acted upon by the national AdvancED Accreditation Commission at the end of November.

The AdvancED quality assurance review has proven to be an invaluable tool for the district. "Through preparations for the review team visit, Lee County Schools were provided an opportunity to take an objective look at our district."

Parents and interested community members can learn more about the District Accreditation Process at www.advanc-ed.org.

AdvancED is the parent organization for the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), and the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE). NCA CASI and SACS CASI are accreditation divisions of AdvancED. Dedicated to advancing excellence in education worldwide, AdvancED provides accreditation, research, and professional services to 23,000 public and private schools and 4,500 school districts in 30 states and 65 countries.

For more information, please contact Superintendent James Evans, Jr. at (606) 464-5000 extension 130.