

DISTRICT ACCREDITATION

Building and Recognizing Quality
School Systems



District Accreditation

- A national protocol for school districts committed to systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement
- Builds capacity to increase student learning and organizational effectiveness
- Stimulates, supports and ensures that all elements of the district work in harmony in pursuit of a shared vision

Cornerstones of Accreditation

- Standards
 - Quality School Systems
 - Quality Schools
- Continuous Improvement
 - Systems Approach
- Quality Assurance
 - Internal Assessment
 - External Review

Expectations

The District:

- Meets the AdvancED Standards for Quality Systems
- Identifies and guides the implementation of a systemic continuous improvement process
- Monitors its schools and departments through a quality assurance process
- Prepares and hosts a QAR every five years
- Responds to findings from the QAR team

Expectations

- District leadership establishes and implements practices to support schools and departments
 - Direction: sets expectations and provides guidelines
 - Assistance: builds understanding and develops skills
 - Resources: provides people, materials, time and funds

Expectations

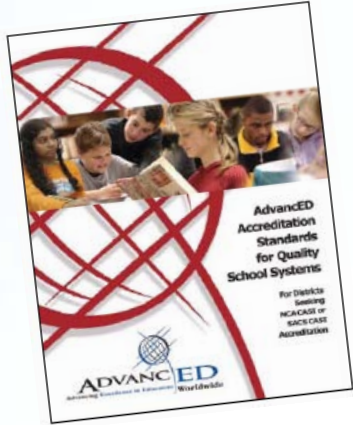
Schools

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

Quality System Standards

- Comprehensive research based statements of practices and conditions that collectively form a picture of quality
 - Cross state, regional, national and international boundaries
 - Focus on factors contributing to student learning
 - Address variables schools/districts can impact
 - Are interrelated and systemically connected

AdvancED Accreditation Standards



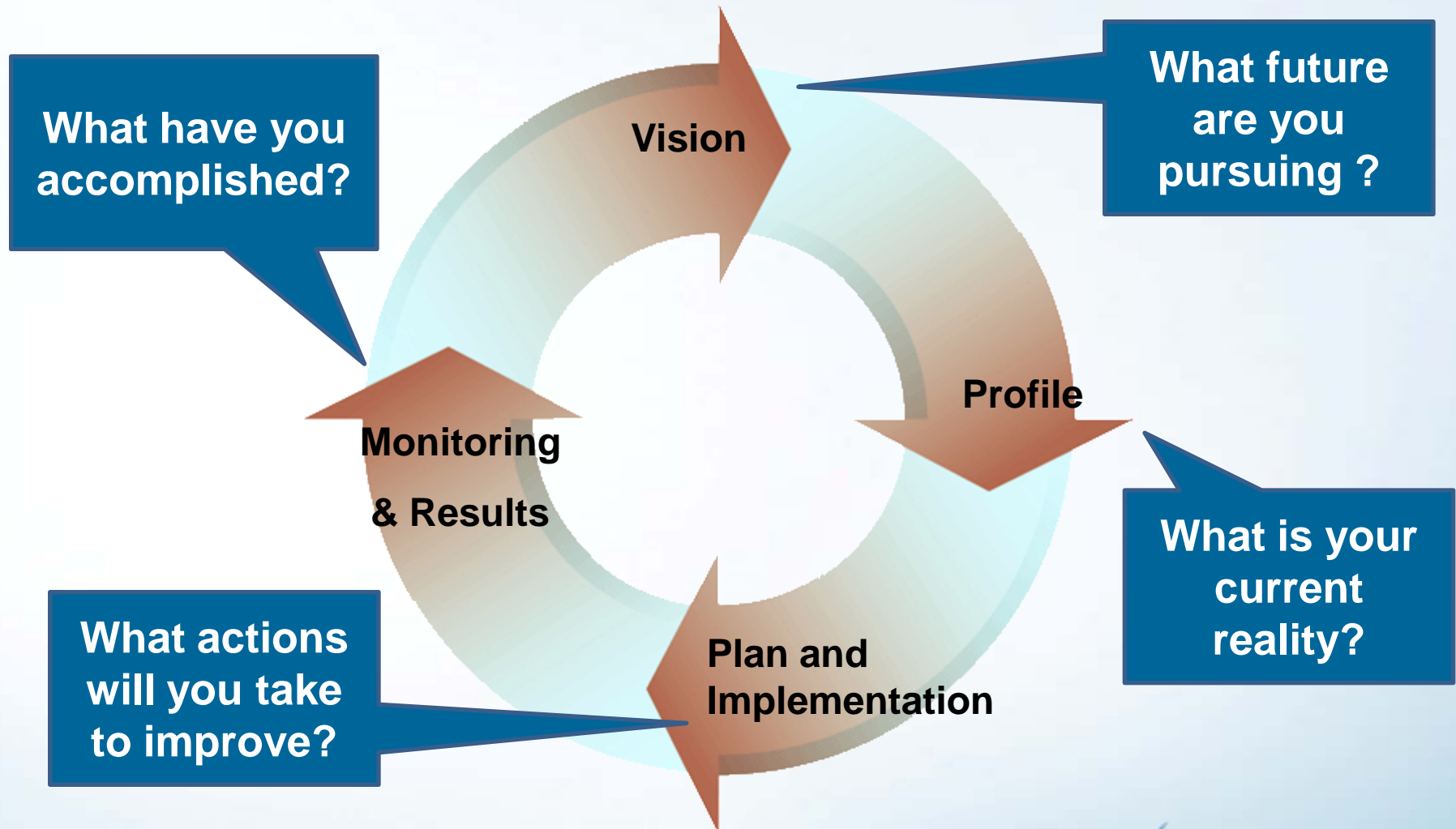
The district provides evidence of meeting the Standards for Quality Systems

- Vision and Purpose
- Governance and Leadership
- Teaching and Learning
- Documenting and Using Results
- Resources and Support Systems
- Stakeholder Communications and Relationships
- Commitment to Continuous Improvement

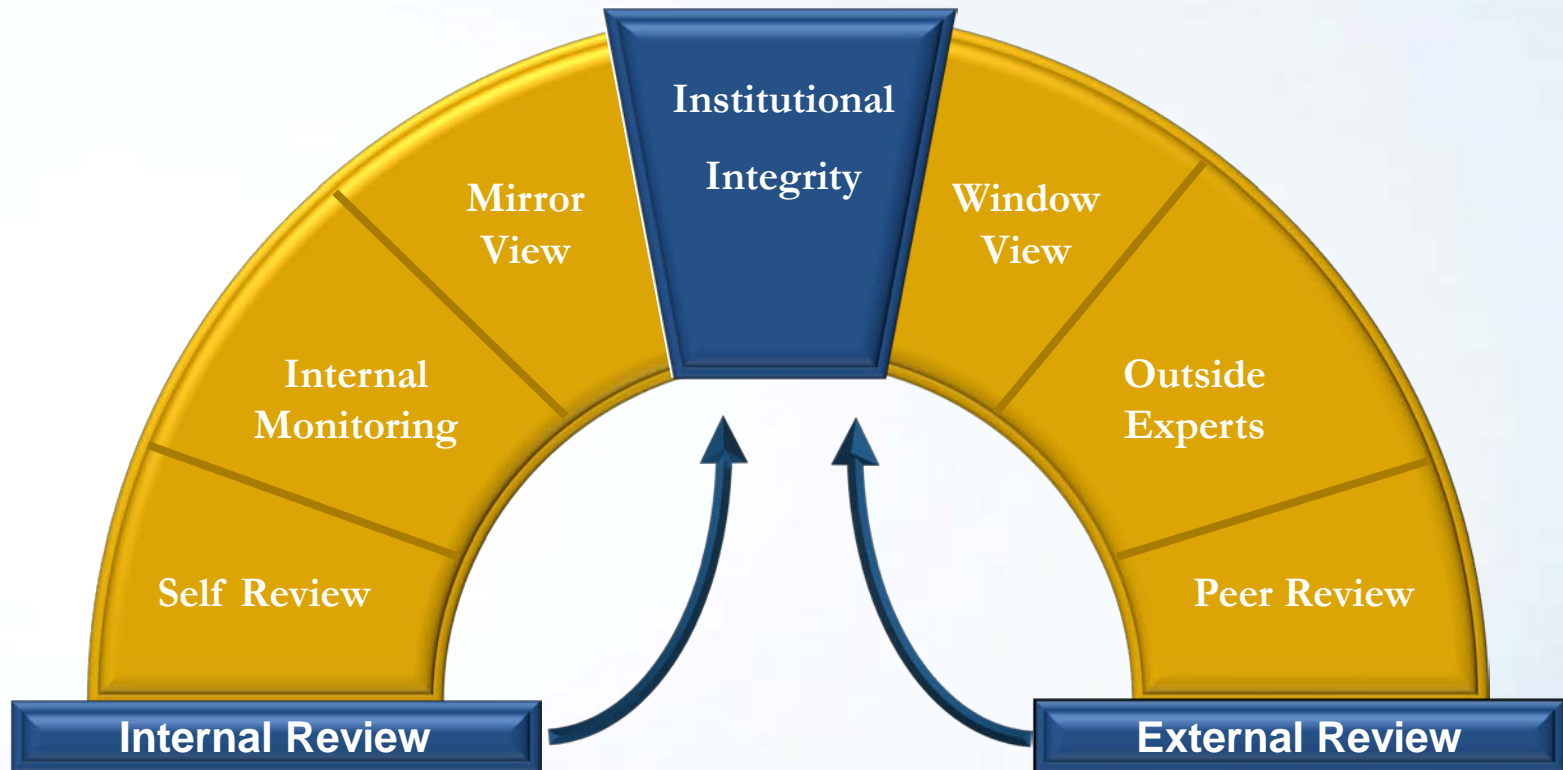
Continuous Improvement

- The district has the responsibility and flexibility to identify, implement, and monitor a systemic continuous improvement process that:
 - Ensures continuity, coherence, alignment and collaboration
 - Promotes purposeful action, at all levels, to achieve vision and goals
 - Addresses the essential elements of continuous improvement

Improvement Process Elements



Quality Assurance Public Trust



Once every five years the district will host an external review.

Quality Assurance Internal Review

The District:

- Regularly collects data and uses results
- Periodically assesses the accreditation standards for formative use
- Designs and implements a program of assessment practices to:
 - monitor and document improvement
 - provide meaningful feedback and support
 - ensure alignment across the system
- Completes and submits the Standards Assessment Report

Standards Assessment Report

- Executive Summary
- Standards Section (for each standard)
 - Assessment of individual indicators
 - Rating of standard (rubric)
 - Written narrative (focus questions)
- Description of quality assurance method
- Submission of peer-to-peer practice (optional)
- Conclusion: Insights, Strengths, Challenges
- Submitted 6 months to 6 weeks prior to the visit

Quality Assurance External Review

- The QAR team
 - Is comprised of members with diverse experience and rich contextual perspective
 - Assesses and evaluates district effectiveness in meeting the requirements of accreditation
- The QAR process provides the district and community with
 - Important validation and recognition
 - Valuable insight and direction for improvement

Quality Assurance External Review

The QAR team

- Meets with district staff and stakeholders
- Visits a representative sample of schools
- Conducts interviews, reviews artifacts and records observations
- Provides feedback through standard narratives, commendations and required actions
- Presents findings in oral and written formats
- Makes an accreditation recommendation

After The Quality Assurance Review

- Benefit from team feedback and findings
 - Leverage commendations
 - Respond to required actions
 - Submit Accreditation Progress Report
- Continue to get better
 - Standards, continuous improvement, quality assurance
- Strengthen the system
- Sustain interest and involvement

*Thank you for your interest
in AdvancED
District Accreditation!*

For more information, visit www.advanc-ed.org/accreditation