

NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Northville, Michigan

Overview
Report of the NCA/AdvancEd Quality Assurance Review Team
January, 2010

Summary of Findings

A Quality Assurance Review Team representing the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), a division of AdvancED, visited Northville Public Schools on 12/06/2009 - 12/09/2009.

During the visit, members of the Quality Assurance Review Team interviewed 27 administrators, 89 teachers, 25 support staff, 54 parents and business partners, 71 students, and 6 Board of Education members for a total of 272 stakeholders. In addition to meeting with district personnel and stakeholders, the team visited 7 schools within the school district. During the school visits, team members interviewed school stakeholders, observed classrooms, and reviewed relevant school artifacts. The team also reviewed documents, student performance data, and other artifacts provided by the district. Specifically, the team examined the district's systems and processes in relation to the seven AdvancED standards: Vision and Purpose; Governance and Leadership; Teaching and Learning; Documenting and Using Results; Resource and Support Systems; Stakeholder Communications and Relationships; Commitment to Continuous Improvement.

Commendations

The Quality Assurance Review Team commends the Northville Public Schools for the following strengths and accomplishments. While additional strengths are noted in the detailed review of each standard that appears later in this report, the commendations listed below are the strengths that the team believes are most deserving of being highlighted. The Quality Assurance Review Team commends the Northville Public Schools for:

1. Honoring the purpose of District Accreditation by aligning the work of the district and its schools through a continuous focus on student achievement and improvement.
2. Demonstrating strong shared leadership.
3. An extraordinary culture of respect and pride among all its stakeholders.

Recommendations

In addition to the commendations, the Quality Assurance Review Team identified the following recommendations for improvement. The team focused its recommendations on those areas that, if addressed, will have the greatest impact on improving student performance and overall effectiveness of the school district. The Northville Public Schools will be held accountable for making progress on each of the recommendations noted in this section. Following this review, the school district will be asked to submit a progress report on these recommendations.

1. Expand the current assessment system by incorporating additional formative and alternative methods for measuring student progress. The team recommends an initiative be put in place that promotes the value and credibility of formative methods, establishes a common language, and deepens understanding of how data can be used at all levels (e.g., district, department, school, teacher, student) to inform instructional practice and improve learning.
2. Strengthen the alignment between the Northville Public Schools vision and its Graduate Profile/Adult Role expectations (e.g., Analytical Thinker, Effective Communicator, Quality Contributor) by clearly defining student measurements or assessments to determine if students are meeting these high expectations.

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Standards for Accreditation

Standard 1. Vision & Purpose

The system establishes and communicates a shared purpose and direction for improving the performance of students and the effectiveness of the system.

Finding: "Highly Functional"

Standard 2. Governance & Leadership

The system provides governance and leadership that promote student performance and system effectiveness.

Finding: "Highly Functional"

Standard 3. Teaching & Learning

The system provides research-based curriculum and instructional methods that facilitate achievement for all students.

Finding: "Operational"

Standard 4. Documenting & Using Results

The system enacts a comprehensive assessment system that monitors and documents performance and uses these results to improve student performance and system effectiveness.

Finding: "Operational"

Standard 5. Resource & Support Systems

The system has the resources and services necessary to support its vision and purpose and to ensure achievement for all students.

Finding: "Operational"

Standard 6. Stakeholder Communications & Relationships

The system fosters effective communications and relationships with and among its stakeholders.

Finding: "Highly Functional"

Standard 7. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

The system establishes, implements, and monitors a continuous process of improvement that focuses on student performance.

Finding: "Operational"

Conclusion

The commendations and recommendations in this report are designed to focus the school district on those areas that will have the greatest impact on student performance and system effectiveness. While powerful in potential, the commendations and recommendations only have meaning when acted upon by the school district and its schools. The strength of this report lies in the school district's commitment to using the findings to continuously improve. The key is action. The school district is encouraged to use the report as a call to action, a tool to sustain momentum in the ongoing process of continuous improvement.