

Readiness Report

for

Denton Independent School District

Dr. Ray Braswell

Denton Independent School District]

Denton, Texas

October 15, 2008



AdvancED is the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

READINESS REPORT for AdvancED™ ACCREDITATION

Purpose: This report is designed to reflect a school's/district's/Educational Service Agency's (ESA's) readiness for accreditation by reviewing their Self-Assessment of Readiness and examining its practices in relation to the AdvancED Standards for accreditation. By assessing a school's/district's/ESA's readiness, a determination can be made regarding its capacity to meet the AdvancED Standards and whether it can be granted candidacy status for accreditation.

Please summarize the school's/district's/ESA's completed Self-Assessment of Readiness.

Standard 1 Vision and Purpose: The district has a process in place for reviewing the vision, policies, and procedures to assure the district continues to maintain improving student performance as the priority of the district. The purpose of Denton ISD is clearly stated in the Mission Statement and the goals of the district are aligned with the Mission Statement. Student achievement is the top priority of the district and improvement efforts are directed at increasing the quality of the district's instructional program.

Standard 2 Governance and Leadership: The Leadership of the System, the Board of Education and Superintendent, serve as advocates for achieving the district's mission and goals. The district's policies and procedures ensure equity of learning opportunities for all students and are supported systematically using a collaborative process with shared accountability. The district supports and provides opportunities for collaboration with the business and universities in the North Texas area.

Standard 3 Teaching and Learning: The system demonstrates an alignment between the curriculum standards and instructional practices throughout the system. Teachers have high expectations for student performance and the opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills in real world situations is evident in the use of technology throughout the district and the district's collaboration with the communities businesses, colleges, and universities in the North Texas area.

Standard 4 Documenting and Using Results: The district has developed and uses an assessment system based on both quantitative and qualitative data. The information is provided to all stakeholders. The reports are shared with staff members and are disaggregated by individual students, subgroups, schools, and the district. Comparisons of the district's and schools' to the state's student performance data are available to all stakeholders. The district uses the data for planning and decision making. The district has achieved the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past six years. Denton ISD was rated Academically Acceptable by the state accountability ratings. No Denton ISD schools were rated Academically Unacceptable. Three schools were rated as Exemplary, the highest rating, and 11 schools were rated as Recognized, the second highest rating.

Standard 5 Resources and Support Systems: The district is continuing to gain the support and commitment of all stakeholders. The growth in populations and the increase in the federal and state accountability ratings continue to challenge the district's efforts to continue to increase the quality of education and to maintain all the services expected by the community. The district actively works with the community and has successfully built a large volunteer base to assist the district in meeting the high level of quality expected by the district and its stakeholders. In November 2007, the voters approved a school bond issue of \$282 million dollars to accommodate the rapid growth and other needs of the students.

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Standard 6: Stakeholder Communications and Relationships: Through communications with stakeholder groups, the district has increased the commitment of the stakeholders of the school. Last year the district recorded 316,600 volunteer hours from parents and community members. Denton ISD maintains a website and provides numerous opportunities for community and university involvement in the district.

Standard 7 Commitment to Continuous Improvement: The district has implemented a process for continuous improvement and has aligned the district's system and its schools. The district has identified District Accreditation standards to guide the district's continuous school improvement and to assure the quality of the district to its staff and stakeholders. The Denton ISD district is aggressively working to provide all of its students with a challenging and high quality education so that the students become knowledgeable and responsible citizens who are capable of life-long learning and have the skills needed to be productive in an ever-changing world.

Please summarize the school's/district's/ESA's capacity to meet the AdvancED Standards for accreditation.

The district has fully reviewed the AdvancED Standards for Accreditation and used the results of the review as part of their quality assurance review for the district. All seven of the standards were found to be at the Highly Function level.

The district improvement plan is being implemented and monitored by the district's leadership team. The district has a clear understanding of the organizational components of its systems and an image of how the parts of the system complement one another to reach the district's mission and goals.

Throughout the review, the district demonstrated its commitment to retain its mission when seeking improvements, and has identified and removed goal impediments within the organization. The readiness visit verified that the educational systems of the district are functioning effectively.

Please summarize the school's/district's/ESA's current efforts to engage in a continuous process of improvement and quality assurance.

The core tasks for improving student learning are identified in the district's improvement plan, in interviews with administrators and teachers, and through on-site observations. The district has focused on improving student performance through:

- a vision of high expectations for all students
- a commitment to assuring quality teaching and learning for all students.
- a comprehensive monitoring system that includes data analysis of a variety of assessments
- additional support for student learning
- monitoring of teacher effectiveness
- a positive school climate that is conducive to learning
- a well-developed professional development program focused on improving classroom instruction
- shared leadership that provides meaningful involvement of the district's stakeholders

RECOMMENDATION OF VISITING STATE OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE:

- Recommended as a candidate for accreditation
- Recommended to remain as an applicant

Sandra Sherman
AdvancED Representative

October 22, 2008
Date

STATE DIRECTOR APPROVAL:

Sandra Sherman
State Director

October 22, 2008
Date

- Approved as a candidate for accreditation
- Approved to remain as an applicant

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