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**BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT ACCREDITATION REVIEW 2016**

**Accreditation Overview**

**Accreditation is inextricably linked to institution and educational system improvement.** The accreditation process asks institutions and systems to critically evaluate their vision, strategies, priorities, leadership, programs and resources. Accreditation is designed to help educational systems boost their ongoing performance efforts for the benefit of their students. AdvancED insists on a relentless pursuit of excellence – for itself and for the institutions it accredits. This ethic of excellence ensures that institutions will find rich benefits from accreditation and that parents can confidentially make informed decisions about their children’s education, knowing their child’s school is accredited. Accreditation matters because our students deserve the highest level of educational excellence possible.

**AdvancED Accreditation Review of BCPS**

**Broward County Public Schools will host an AdvancED External Review Team October 23-26, 2016**. The team will review the system and its schools to evaluate the system’s adherence to the AdvancED Accreditation Standards. Broward County Schools, first accredited in 1962, must participate in an external review every five years in order to retain AdvancED School System Accreditation.

To earn AdvancED School System Accreditation, Broward County Public Schools must: 1) meet the AdvancED Accreditation Standards; 2) implement a continuous process of improvement; and 3) host an External Review team once every five years.

As a part of the accreditation process, a team of trained professionals from across the state and nation, will review Broward County Schools documents and performance data; interview system, school and community stakeholders; conduct site reviews of several schools; and observe system and school practices in action. The team will offer both recognition of strong practices as well as areas for improvement to the system. In two years, the district will be required to report to AdvancED its progress in addressing the team’s Improvement Priorities.

AdvancED School System Accreditation process will demonstrate to students, parents and community that the District is focused on raising student achievement, providing safe and enriching learning environments, and maintaining efficient and effective operations staffed by highly qualified educators.

To review previous commendations and recommendations made by the AdvancED External Review Team, log on to <http://www.browardschools.com/www-browardschools-com/departments/accreditation> and review the 2011 Accreditation Exit report. To learn more about the AdvancED School System Accreditation Process log on to [www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org). For more information, contact: the Broward County Schools Office of Service Quality, 754-321-3850.

**AdvancED Accreditation Standards & Broward’s BEST Blueprint**

**Standard 1: Purpose and Direction**

The **BEST Blueprint** maintains and communicates at all levels of the organization a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commits to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

**Standard 2: Governance and Leadership**

The **BEST Blueprint** is a part of a system of governance and leadership that promotes and supports student performance and system effectiveness.

**Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning**

The **BEST Blueprint** supports the district’s practices for curriculum, instructional design, and assessment, ensuring teacher effectiveness and student learning across all grades and courses.

**Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems**

The **BEST Blueprint** leverages BCPS resources and provides services in all schools to support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

**Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement** The **BEST Blueprint** supports the district’s comprehensive assessment process that generates a wide range of data about student learning and system effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.