





Accreditation

*The Path and Promise for Ensuring
Continual Improvement in Student
Learning and School Effectiveness*



The Accreditation Journey for the Arizona Juvenile Detention Schools



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The Problem: Why the Journey?

- **Transfer of credit for work completed in detention schools was a major obstacle for student transition back to the community.**
- **NCLB “highly qualified teacher” designation is difficult for many smaller detention schools with multi-age, multilevel, ungraded structure in limited classrooms.**



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The Purpose: What's the Goal of the Journey?

- **Single agreement and rate structure ensures participation by all detention schools to qualify for accreditation regardless of size and/or resources.**
- **Accreditation guarantees that all other schools so accredited will accept credit for work completed by students in detention schools.**
- **Systemic approach addresses NCLB highly qualified teacher compliance.**



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- **Being part of the AdvancED accreditation process demonstrates a willingness to be held accountable to the school community and to educational professionals.**
- **Once earned, accreditation is an internationally recognized sign of quality.**
- **The school becomes more focused on improving student achievement, and administrators, teachers, and the school community become involved in the improvement process.**



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School Accreditation

*A Comprehensive Framework for
Continually Improving Student
Learning and School
Effectiveness*



A Picture of AdvancED



World's Largest Educational Community

- 23,000 public and private schools
- 30 States and Navajo Nation
- Department of Defense Education Activity

- 65 countries
- 16,000 volunteers
- 15 million students
- 3 million plus teachers

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Pillars of Accreditation



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Accreditation Process

Schools are accredited for a 5-year term

- **Internal Review**
 - The school conducts an internal review of its adherence to the AdvancED accreditation standards.
- **External Review**
 - The school hosts an external review conducted by professional peers.
- **Continuous Improvement**
 - The school continues to monitor, document, and evaluate its improvement efforts.

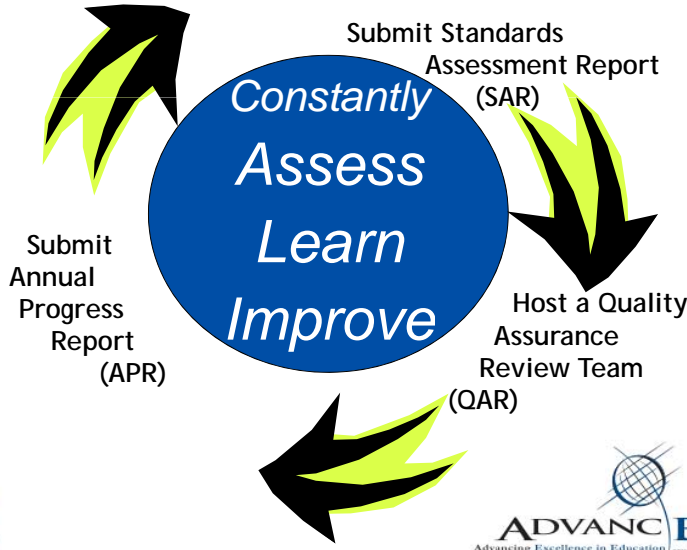

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Accreditation Process

Schools are accredited for a 5-year term



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AdvancED Accreditation Standards

The school provides evidence of meeting the Standards for Quality Schools



1. Vision and Purpose
2. Governance and Leadership
3. Teaching and Learning
4. Documenting and Using Results
5. Resources and Support Systems
6. Stakeholder Communications and Relationships
7. Commitment to Continuous Improvement


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AdvancED Accreditation Standards


Standards for Quality Schools



- Are Based on Research
- Are Interrelated and Systemically Connected
- Focus on Factors That Contribute to Student Learning
- Address Variables Schools Can Impact

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AdvancED Accreditation Standards

- **Standard**
 - Comprehensive statement of quality practices and conditions
- **Indicators**
 - Operational definitions or descriptions of practices and processes
- **Impact Statement**
 - Characteristics, processes, and actions that would be observable and verifiable in a school that effectively implements the standard

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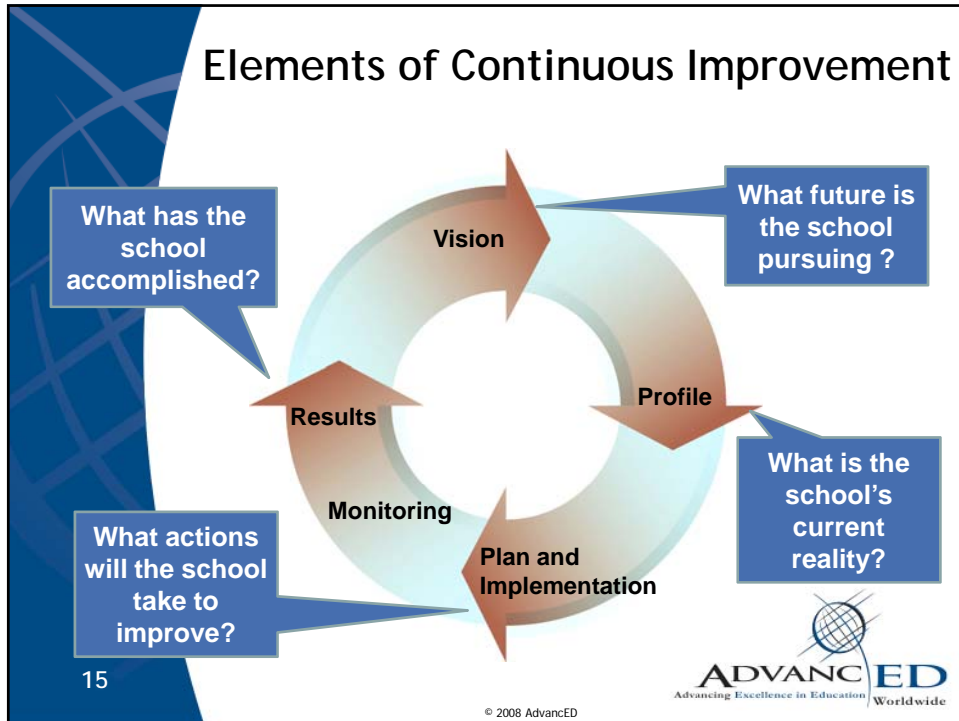
Continuous Improvement Process

- **The school has the *responsibility* and *flexibility* to identify and implement a systemic process of continuous improvement:**
 - One process is used by the school – this promotes continuity, coherence, alignment and collaborative planning.
 - The process contains the four elements of: vision, profile, plan and implementation, and results.
 - Continuous improvement applies at all levels of the school.

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- ## Quality Assurance
- ### *Internal and Ongoing*
- **The school demonstrates organizational integrity.**
 - **The school designs and implements a program of assessment practices and methods to:**
 - Monitor and document improvement
 - Provide meaningful feedback and support
 - Ensure standards are met and strengthened
 - **The school collects, uses, and communicates results.**
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Quality Assurance Review Process

External Review Every 5 Years

- **The school hosts an external review conducted by professional peers who**
 - Assess effectiveness of the school in meeting the requirements of school accreditation
 - Meet with school staff and stakeholders
- **The school receives commendations, recommendations, and accreditation recommendation.**
- **Review provides school and community with validation and recognition.**

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Essential to Success


Effective Leadership

- Establishes schoolwide direction.
- Develops processes to monitor and maintain efforts.
- Provides support, guidance, assistance, and resources.
- Ensures accountability.

Systems Approach

- Systemic—using and aligning the functions within and across the school to produce improvement
- Systematic —fostering improvement efforts that are regular and predictable
- Sustainable—maintaining and supporting improvements over time

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Essential to Success

Culture

- Professional culture of learning, collaboration, and reflective practice
- Stakeholders demonstrate trust and respect
- High expectations for staff and students

Effective Communication System

- Stakeholders are informed and meaningful engaged.
- Systematic processes are developed and used.

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Contact Information

Dorothy (Dottie) Wodraska
Director of Juvenile Transition
Maricopa County Education Service Agency
4041 North Central Avenue, Suite 1100
Phoenix, AZ 85012
Phone: 602-506-2469
Fax: 602-372-8592
Email: Dwodra@schools.maricopa.gov
Web: www.maricopa.gov/schools



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