

ABBEVILLE COUNTY

Timeline: This is subject to change!

Sept.. 06

- Readiness Visit

- Establish District Vision Statement

- A Letter of Commitment is submitted by Superintendent

Oct. 06

- Begin review of school's mission statements

Letter sent requesting Oct. 7-10, 2007 for visit.

Nov. 06

Dec. 06

- Gathering information/assessing our needs

Mar. 07

- District Teams formed

School Renewal Plans developed

Apr.. 07

- District Teams continue work on standards

School Renewal Plans completed

May. 07

- District Teams complete work on standards

July 07

- Meet with principals to review district plan

Aug. 07

- District Plan reviewed with each school faculty by the principal.

- Data Team meets to look at district results of 2007 testing. Final revisions and assembling of materials

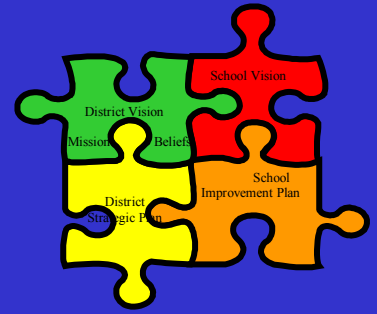
Sept. 07

- District Plan sent to SACS team members.

Oct. 07

- Official Visit Oct.. 7-10

SACS and Abbeville County School District



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2007

District Accreditation: Major Components

School systems seeking district accreditation must tend to the three major responsibilities of accreditation. The school system must meet the Accreditation Standards for Quality Systems, identify and illustrate implementation of a continuous system improvement process and demonstrate quality assurance. In order to achieve or maintain accreditation the school system must host a successful quality assurance review conducted by professional peers representing SACS CASI. As such, the following guidelines apply:

District Accreditation has three major components.

- **Engaging in Continuous Improvement:** The district articulates and implements a planning framework for district improvement that addresses four elements: a **Vision** describing the future direction and purpose for the school system and its schools; a **Profile** describing the current conditions of the school system and its schools focusing on student learning, a **Plan** describing the pursuit of goals designed specifically to address student learning needs and to build the capacity of the internal systems of the district to address such priorities; and the documentation of **Results** stemming from improvement efforts.

- **Meeting Standards:** The district complies with and maintains adherence to the ten *District Accreditation Standards for Quality Systems*. Additionally, each school in the district is expected to meet accreditation standards specifically designed for schools.

- **Demonstrating Quality Assurance:** The school system must demonstrate quality assurance through institutional integrity, peer review, and documentation of the results of its improvement efforts. Through institutional integrity the system strives to deliver on its promise and to be what it claims to be to both the school community and community at large; through peer review the efforts of the system and its schools to improve student learning are strengthened; and through documentation of the results of its efforts to improve, the system and its schools are able to determine its strengths and weaknesses and to plan for further improvement. Under the district accreditation framework the district is responsible for designing and implementing a quality assurance process for its schools and the district. Every five years the district will be expected to host a SACSCASI Quality Assurance Review Team, composed of professional peers from outside the district that are responsible for validating compliance with accreditation standards; assessing the efforts of the district and its schools in engaging continuous improvement; and evaluating the effectiveness of an established internal quality assurance process.

The SACS CASI Quality Assurance Review Team will also make random visits to schools within the district to ensure alignment and coordination throughout the district.

Council on Accreditation and School Improvement
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Visions & Missions

VISION STATEMENT
Abbeville County School District will be
a model of excellence in education.

In Abbeville County School District we are committed to continually improving to provide the highest quality education for all students. For ACSD to implement a continuous process of improvement, four elements must be present.

The first element is **VISION** which must be clear and concise. This is communicated through the district's vision, mission and belief statements.

In early October, Dr. Randolph sent to all principals his vision for Abbeville County Schools. Input was gathered concerning this statement.

In late October, the curriculum coordinators discussed the statement as well.

After the vision is established the mission begins. Each school has developed their mission statement.

Dixie High School: "Our mission is to establish the foundation for lifelong learning by assuring optimal learning for all students through a positive, yet challenging environment.

Abbeville High School: Our mission is to develop confident, competent and caring individuals by providing educational experiences that encourage life-long learning and respect in a changing world.

Abbeville Career Center: Our Mission: Preparing our students for the future.

Calhoun Falls High School: The mission of Calhoun Falls High School is to prepare all students to be successful citizens and workers in the twenty first century. This will be accomplished by placing an emphasis

on improving student learning in reading, writing, computing, thinking, reasoning, and using information to solve problems.

Wright Middle School: The mission of Wright Middle School is to promote student learning by challenging and guiding students toward a successful transition to a higher level of learning.

Westwood Elementary School: The stakeholders of Westwood Elementary School: Educators, Parents, and Community members recognize that education is the best hope for the future.

Cherokee Trail Elementary School: The mission of Cherokee Trail Elementary School is to support and challenge students every day to learn lifelong skills to become creative, responsible, and productive citizens.

Diamond Hill Elementary School: Challenging students everyday to learn to be a shining success in school and in life.

Long Cane Elementary: The mission of Long Cane Elementary is to establish a strong foundation in a nurturing, safe environment conducive for learning which will help children to develop life long skills necessary for accessing and processing information dealing with change, thinking, reasoning and problem solving, developing creativity, values, and positive human relationships.

John C. Calhoun Elementary School: The mission of John C. Calhoun Elementary is to provide appropriate and challenging learning experiences that give students the opportunity to succeed both academically and in life.

Mission Statement of Abbeville School District

The mission of the Abbeville County School District is to develop proficient, creative, self-motivated students by providing quality educational opportunities in a safe, nurturing environment, which supports innovations and lifelong learning.

Web Pages: Making the Connection

Web pages are the greatest tools for getting snippets of information out to parents and the community. Good website design requires substantial planning, and takes into consideration not just visual design but also content, tone and the way information is arranged, as well as accessibility and usability for people with varying degrees of ability. None of these things are developed in isolation: all of them ideally support one another.

A school website can be the first impression that some-

one has of that school. It is important to get the mission and “feel” of the school across on the website.

Look at your website and decide if the image that you want to project is evident.

There are a number of websites to give ideas:

<http://ls.berkeley.edu/lscr/advice/web/design>

http://www.cln.org/themes/webpages_intro.html

http://www.cln.org/themeswebpages_advanced.html

Benefits of District Accreditation

It is based on *effective schools' research* derived from the work of the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) and the other regional accrediting bodies with whom SACS is allied. This research indicates that school improvement support by central office and system-wide structures can be more effective than improvement efforts without such support.

It is based on *effective leadership research* findings that note that leaders of high performing school districts develop and maintain *quality systems*.

Its foundation ensures continuity and collaboration in planning for improvement, anchored in a common vision for education among all its schools, because each school's improvement goals must complement that of the district.

It supports and enhances a common language of school improvement communication across content areas and grade levels, as well as across individual schools, feeder schools, and district lines of responsibility. It ensures an onsite Quality Assurance Review visit every five years by an external team of trained peer professionals. It holds the promise of significantly reducing costs associated with hosting separate peer review teams for each school every five years.



Since 2002-2003 several districts have received approval to pursue SACS CASI District Accreditation. To date, these districts have identified District Accreditation as the most significant advancement in accreditation in the past several decades.



Abbeville County School District

400 Greenville Street
Abbeville, SC 29620

Phone: 864-366-5427
E-mail: slsmith@acsd.k12.sc.us

Every Child A Success



<http://www.acsd.k12.sc.us/>

Teams

As the SACS process begins it will be the our responsibility to demonstrate that as a district we are addressing, monitoring and successfully implementing the 10 standards as laid out by SACS. Teams will be formed to address each of these standards.

Those 10 standards and Chairpersons/Co-Chairs are:

Standard 1: Beliefs and Mission-
Wayne Stevenson

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership-
Dr. Ivan Randolph

Standard 3: Curriculum-Sherri Smith

Standard 4: Instructional Design-
Lori Brewton

Standard 5: Assessment, Measure-
ment, & Effectiveness Results-Jean
Smith

Standard 6: Resources (Financial and
Human Resources)- Terri Martin

Standard 7: Student Services- Joyce
Cunningham and Chester King

Standard 8: Staff & Stakeholder Com-
munications and Relationships- Kathy
Stevenson

Standard 9: Physical Facilities- Sam
Jones and Barry Jacks

Standard 10: Continuous Process of
Educational Improvement- Sherwin
Johnson and Tommy Hollingsworth

Just in Case You Were Wondering...

School visits will not be conducted as they have been with the traditional school accreditation.

The purpose of school visits is to gather data that creates "systematic evidence" that supports the district perspective as laid out in the district plan.

There will not be individual school reports and school standards are not going to be validated on site.

For documentation needs schools will be asked to have on hand a current copy of the school improvement plan.

More on the actual visit as we get further into this process.

Abbeville County School District is a great place for students. It is time for ACSD to shine and through the SACS accreditation process there is no doubt that we will shine brightly!