



Bibb County School District

Department of Communications / Community & School Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES NOTICE OF ACCREDITATION FROM AdvancED

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(MACON, GA) – The Bibb County School District received notification this week that the District has earned the distinction of accreditation from AdvancED. AdvancED is the global leader in advancing excellence in education through continuous improvement, organizational effectiveness and accreditation.

The District welcomed an Engagement Review Team from AdvancED in October 2017 as part of the five-year review process for accreditation. During the Engagement Review Team's visit, October 1-4, members interviewed 233 stakeholders and visited 13 schools. Based on the Engagement Review Team's assessment, the District received an overall Index of Education Quality (IEQ) Score of 342.79 on a scale of 100 to 400.

This score, one of the higher scores received by a Georgia school district under AdvancED's new review process, is based on ratings from the three domains of leadership capacity, learning capacity and resource capacity, as well as classroom observations. Under each of these domains, the District met all standards with ratings of Exceeds Expectations, Meets Expectations and Emerging. The District did not receive any ratings of Needs Improvement.

"If I had to sum my assessment and thoughts, I could do it one word: Wow. The results of the AdvancED visit show the school district is doing great work. I've been told the score of 342 is probably in the top 10 percent of school districts worldwide. That's exciting! It shows that while student achievement is not where we want it, we're doing the right work to get it where we want to be. I'm very excited and thankful to our teachers, students and the community," said Superintendent Dr. Curtis Jones.

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*Vision: Each student demonstrates strength of character and is college or career ready.
Mission: The Bibb County School District will develop a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.*

Some of the powerful practices the Engagement Review Team noticed within the District included:

- The system’s comprehensive strategic planning and monitoring efforts ensure that district and school resources, as well as other efforts of all staff and stakeholders, are tightly aligned with the system’s vision, mission, and values.
- District and school leaders have proactively engaged a wide range of community and stakeholder partners who provide an equally wide range of supports to the system, its schools, students and families.

The Engagement Review Team identified two opportunities for improvement:

- Establish, monitor, and evaluate processes to ensure all students have equitable access to rigorous and differentiated instruction that includes active student engagement.
- Define, implement, and monitor a process that increases the integration of technology as a learner tool in all classrooms.

In conclusion, the Engagement Review Team noted it, “was truly impressed by so much of what it heard and observed during its time in the Bibb County School District. Compelling evidence of the system’s commitment to a culture of accountability in support of students was found at both the district and school levels. District leadership’s equally strong commitment to strategic planning and continuous improvement ensures that staff and stakeholders are focusing their efforts and energies in a consistent, student-centered direction. Those efforts have produced increases in a variety of measures of student achievement, perhaps most notably the on-time graduation rate.”

For more than 100 years, AdvancED, through its accreditation division of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), has served as the primary accreditor of public schools and districts in Georgia. Through this work, AdvancED has provided the vast majority of Georgia schools and districts with a research-based framework for continuous improvement that incorporates third-party evaluative feedback through external engagement.

An AdvancED Review Team last visited the District during the 2012-2013 school year. The District received official notification in July 2013 that it had received accreditation.

To view the final accreditation performance report from the Engagement Review Team’s visit in October 2017, which was approved by AdvancED’s Board in January 2018, [click here](#).

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