



NEWS RELEASE

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DeKalb County School System Placed on Accreditation on Advisement

ATLANTA, GA, March 4, 2011 – The AdvancED Accreditation Commission voted to place the DeKalb County School System on *Accredited on Advisement* status effective immediately. A visit from a Special Review Team of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), an accreditation division of AdvancED, found DeKalb County School System facing significant challenges and determined that there are areas of concern related to the AdvancED Standards for Accreditation.

Following the review of documentation submitted by DeKalb County School System, AdvancED determined that further examination was warranted and the Special Review Team conducted a visit January 24-26.

“The Dekalb County School System has faced some unprecedented challenges in the last 18 months,” stated Dr. Mark Elgart, President and CEO, AdvancED. “Although the school system has made significant efforts and progress to address these challenges, more work must be done by the school system’s leadership to repair its reputation, restore trust and stakeholder confidence, and safeguard its processes.” said Elgart.

Based on the findings of the Special Review Team and subsequent review by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, AdvancED has placed the DeKalb County School System on Accredited on Advisement until October 31, 2011.

By October 31, 2011, the school system must address the following Required Actions made by the Special Review Team:

- Re-establish the district’s strategic planning team for the purpose of effectively implementing the DeKalb County School System Strategic Plan to guide the direction of the district.
- Implement protocol within the current Comprehensive Policy Review Initiative process that will provide proactive and on-going review of policies following its completion in two-years.

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- Develop a plan to ensure the communication, training, implementation, and monitoring of all district policies and regulations.
- Establish and maintain a clear and direct line of authority between the Internal Auditor and the DeKalb County School System Board of Education.
- Oversee the training and implementation of CRCT state assessments and develop a plan of action for monitoring.
- Redistrict, close, and consolidate schools as necessary based on actual data and facts resulting from the assessment of education adequacy, technology readiness, utilization (open seats), enrollment and capacity.
- Select a new superintendent that exemplifies and has demonstrated the characteristics necessary to lead a unique school system such as DeKalb County.
- Designate staff to collaborate with the existing public relations agency to develop a focused communications plan to reach out to internal and external stakeholders with both input and output of information.

The DeKalb County School System will be expected to host a Monitoring Team Visit by October 31 to assess the progress made in complying with the Special Review Team's Required Actions listed above. The school system shall submit an Institution Progress Report no less than two weeks prior to the scheduled visit to provide evidence of progress toward meeting the Required Actions.

Evidence gathered by the Special Review Team shows a commitment among school system leaders to make progress and restore credibility to the district with internal and external stakeholders. The District has faced and continues to work through challenges in the areas of leadership, governance, redistricting, school closures and consolidations, stakeholder communications, and state assessment procedures.

“DeKalb County School System leaders are taking initial steps to address the challenges they are facing and bring pride back to the school system. AdvancED will continue to support the school system in its vision to ensure that each student has the opportunity to receive a quality education,” said Elgart.

About AdvancED

Dedicated to advancing excellence in education through accreditation, research, and professional services, AdvancED is the world's largest education community, serving and engaging over 27,000 public and private schools and districts in 71 countries and serving nearly 16 million students. AdvancED is the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

Accreditation is a process of helping institutions improve through a systematic program of evaluation, assuring that an institution not only meets quality standards, but also that it demonstrates a continuous commitment to providing quality education programs that are aimed at improving student performance.

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