



Accreditation and You

A Parent's Guide to the Importance of Accreditation

Accreditation lays the groundwork for success for schools and students...

Parents have long held education as a key to their child's preparation and success in life. Equally, educators have known that a quality education is of the utmost importance for a child's future. Quality and success are not mutually exclusive in the education process. Quality and student success go hand-in-hand and are why many schools seek accreditation.

Accreditation recognizes the quality of a school's or school system's work, but it doesn't stop there. The accreditation process includes internal and external review. It ensures schools are meeting high quality standards and are implementing a continuous improvement process. Accreditation acts as a report card for schools. It provides institutions with feedback for continuous improvement, supporting schools and systems to be the best that they can be on behalf of the students they serve.

More than 100 years ago American universities established K-12 accreditation to determine which schools provided quality programs for their graduates. Today, universities, colleges, postsecondary institutions, and employers are even more interested in knowing that students have been educated in quality schools, preparing them for success in an ever-changing and diverse world.

Accreditation benefits parents and students...

When a school or school system achieves accreditation, parents and the community can be assured that student achievement, a safe and enriching learning environment, and an efficient operation are top priorities for the school/system.

Students benefit as well. They are assured qualified teachers who are working to improve their methods; more focus on student learning; better transition from grade to grade; a rigorous, diverse, and sound curriculum based on quality standards; a range of student activities and support services; smoother transfer of credits from school to school; and eligibility for special programs, grants, and scholarships.

Parents play an important role in accreditation...

Schools want parents to be actively involved in the improvement process. Parents need to stay informed about what's going on at their child's school; talk to other parents about the importance of education; join the school's improvement team and/or Parent Teacher Association (PTA); and give feedback to the school through surveys, focus groups, and parent meetings.

Your school is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). NCA CASI is an accreditation division of AdvancED. AdvancED has access to over 100 years of expertise in accreditation and school improvement. You can visit www.advanc-ed.org to learn more. Feel free to also contact your school directly to learn more about their accreditation efforts.