

Spartanburg School District Four Receives High Marks from AdvancED

Spartanburg School District Four was recently recommended for AdvancED re-accreditation based upon findings of an External Review. Following an extensive review of documents and a three-day visit, an Exit Report was presented by Dr. Drew Moore, Lead Evaluator for the AdvancED External Review Team. In the presentation, Dr. Moore stated, "I do a lot of External Review visits each year, and these are some of the highest scores I have seen." He further indicated that Spartanburg District Four could serve as a model for the AdvancED process.

AdvancED is the global leader in providing continuous improvement and accreditation services to over 32,000 institutions serving 20 million students worldwide. AdvancEd provides an international protocol for institutions committed to systemic, systematic and sustainable improvement.

A six-member External Review Team visited District Four on February 29 – March 2, 2016. During that time, the team conducted 133 interviews of stakeholders, including board members, school administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, community/business partners, and students. They conducted 67 formal observations in classrooms and 26 walk-through observations.

AdvancEd rates districts on the effectiveness of the learning environments based on the classroom observations. Scores are reported in seven domains. District Four scored above the AdvancED Education Network (AEN) average in each domain as indicated in the chart below.

	Domains	Spartanburg Four's External Review	AdvancED Education Network (AEN) Average
1	Equitable Learning Environment	3.22	2.69
2	High Expectations Environment	3.08	2.81
3	Supportive Learning Environment	3.48	3.06
4	Active Learning Environment	3.31	2.94
5	Progress Monitoring and Feedback Environment	3.15	2.79
6	Well-Managed Learning Environment	3.50	3.13
7	Digital Learning Environment	2.14	1.82

The Index of Education Quality (IEQ) is calculated based on the district's adherence to the AdvancED standards. An overall score is provided along with a score in three domains: Teaching and Learning Impact, Leadership Capacity, and Resource Utilization.

Again, District Four rated above the AdvancEd Education Network (AEN) average with an overall rating of 321.95.

Domains	Spartanburg Four's External Review IEQ Scores	AdvancED Education Network (AEN) Average
Overall Score	321.95	278.34
Teaching and Learning Impact	319.84	268.94
Leadership Capacity	330.56	292.64
Resource Utilization	314.58	283.86

The External Review Team provided three overall findings as follows:

- Students benefit from the highly developed culture of respect, learning and expectations that has been deliberately established and systemically supported by system leaders and classroom educators.
- Teachers work in strong collaborative communities to analyze data and guide instructional decision-making in the classrooms. This practice supports ongoing training in evaluation and use of data to improve student performance.
- The system is intensely focused on student success and has aligned all practices, programs, initiatives, and goals with the Purpose.

District Four's strong work ethic, knowledgeable instructional staff, and high quality of personnel were recognized as the most important factors in these outstanding results. Commenting to District Four employees, Dr. Rallie Liston, Superintendent, said, "I hope you feel empowered by these results, as you have had your work validated through this process. I appreciate you, your high expectations, and your commitment to Spartanburg District Four." Mr. Milton Smith, Chairman of the District Four Board of Trustees, echoed those sentiments by stating, "Your professionalism and dedication to our children's learning and growth experience are unmatched. Thank you for your hard work and devotion to all the children you serve and work with. This community is proud of the great job you do. Thank you on behalf of our students and community."