

Do I have a role in accreditation?

Yes. You can assist with accreditation by:

- Staying informed about your school's accreditation.
- Educating other parents about your school's accreditation.
- Reinforcing the skills your school is teaching your children.
- Becoming an active member of your school's continuous improvement team and/or internal and external engagement review process.
- Requesting and participating in opportunities to provide feedback to your school (i.e. parent surveys, focus groups, and parent meetings).



How can I find out more about accreditation?

You can visit www.advanc-ed.org to locate accredited schools and districts in your community, or you can contact your NCA CASI or SACS CASI State Office. A listing of state offices is available on the AdvancED Web site:

www.advanc-ed.org



Our Mission

To graduate college and career ready students.

Our Vision

“Learning Today – Leading Tomorrow!”

Revised 3/1/2018

**Peach County Schools**

Learning Today – Leading Tomorrow!



Peach County School District will participate in the accreditation process March 18-21, 2018.

A Guide for Parents

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary method of quality assurance developed more than 100 years ago by American universities and secondary schools. Today, to demonstrate educational quality, accreditation is used at all levels of education and is recognized for its ability to effectively drive student performance and continuous improvement in education.

Accreditation engages the school community in meeting high quality standards, implementing a continuous improvement process, and engaging in quality assurance through internal and external engagement review.

Through AdvancED, 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) accredit pre-k through grade 12 public and private schools and districts in 30 states, the Navajo Nation, the Department of Defense Schools, and Latin America.

What does accreditation mean to me as a parent?

A school's commitment to accreditation assures parents and the community that the school is focused on raising student achievement, providing a safe and enriching learning environment, and maintaining an efficient and

effective operation. An accredited school adheres to high quality standards based on the latest research and successful profession practices.

NCA CASI/SACS CASI accreditation means that your school has opened its doors to review and support from an organization bringing 100 years of experience in improving educational quality.



What are the benefits to my children attending an accredited school?

Students who attend a school accredited by NCA CASI or SACS CASI can rest assured that the school is committed to raising student performance and held accountable for improving student learning on a continual basis.

Accreditation means that students have:

- Qualified teachers who are continually working to improve their practices and teaching methods in order to increase student performance.
- Access to a rich, diverse, and sound curriculum
- Access to a range of student activities and support services
- Transferability of credits from school to school
- Greater access to federal loans, scholarships, post secondary education, and military programs that require accreditation

The school credits that students earn at an NCA CASI/SACS CASI accredited schools are recognized by schools, colleges, and universities globally. Through AdvancED's reciprocal agreements with other accrediting organizations, students can continue their educational goals in the United States or around the world.



How do schools earn accreditation?

To earn accreditation from NCA CASI or SACS CASI, schools must:

Engage in an Internal Improvement Journey

1. **Learn & Share:** A community of stakeholders share their perspective and experiences and learn about

how the work of the school impacts every stakeholder including, most importantly, students.

2. **Examine & Plan:** Complete a critical self-analysis whereby the school community examines the work of the school against research-based factors. Engage stakeholders in defining the vision for the school as well as set the strategic direction to achieve the vision.
3. **Act & Evaluate:** Plot the journey and take action. Gather evidence and determine results. Based on the results, determine the next steps to advance the journey.

Participate in an External Engagement Review

AdvancED On-Site Visit: An AdvancED team conducts an on-site visit and uses an online productivity tool to:

- a. rate the demonstration of AdvancED Performance Standards,
- b. capture student, parent, and leader/governing body interviews
- c. record Governance Board and classroom observations.

