



Hancock County Board of Education

"Where Excellence is the Standard"

Dr. Charles Culver, Superintendent

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HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM'S ACCREDITATION CONTINUES

By

Dr. Charles R. Culver, Superintendent of Hancock County Schools

Hancock County School System completed its state review, with commendations from AdvancED, the review board, which conducted the review. As a result of this extensive and comprehensive review over almost a 3-year period, Hancock County School System was removed from the "Under Review" status, and commended for its overall improvement, according to Dr. Charles, R. Culver, Superintendent of schools. Dr. Culver received notification, dated July 3, 2017, from Annette Bohling, J. D., Chief Operations Officer, AdvancED. The letter stated,

The AdvancED Georgia Council accepted the report and approved the team's recommendation to remove the Under Review status from Hancock County Schools. I congratulate you, your staff, and community on the district's continued commitment to AdvancED Accreditation. I extend congratulations on your system's commitments to excellence in education. Hancock County Schools should be proud of its dedication to continuous improvement and quality assurance focused on helping every student succeed.

The Monitoring Review Report included findings and recommendations from a series of onsite reviews conducted on May 12-13, 2015; October 27-28, 2015; September 7-8, 2016; and a culminating review held on May 15-16, 2017. Interviews and document reviews generated the data needed for the Review Team to make a decision relative to the accreditation status of the school system.

Multiple interviews with the superintendent, principals, district leaders, support staff, and community members provided the data needed to determine the progress being made in meeting the cited priorities. Document reviews generated additional data and included evidence from the Hancock County

Board of Education meeting agendas and minutes, board members training records, the district strategic plans, staff evaluations, student achievement data, and curriculum and instruction future plans. The Review Team used the data gathered from the interviews and document reviews to make recommendations relative to the overall accreditation status of the school system. Standards of measure were based on the following five School Improvement Priorities cited for Hancock County Schools:

Improvement Priority 2: Develop, document, and implement a clear and concise policy, procedures, and schedule for regular and routine review of all board policies.

Improvement Priority 4: Develop, document, and implement standard school board policies and operational procedures to ensure that all legal requirements and policy requirements are met for regular and routine operation of board matters.

Improvement Priority 5: Develop, document, and implement board member training and procedures for regular review of individual board member compliance with Policy BH: Board Code of Ethics and Policy BHA: Board Member Conflict of Interest.

Improvement Priority 7: Develop, document, implement, and monitor a system-wide strategic plan that (a) involves all stakeholders including board members, central office and building leadership, teachers, parents, students, and community members; (b) is based upon the vision, mission, and goals of the system; (c) specifies high standards of performance for all students, (d) specifies high standards of performance for all staff, (e) addresses and supports innovation, collaboration, shared leadership, and professional growth; and (f) results in measurable improvement in collaboration and a sense of community among all stakeholders

Improvement Priority 8: Develop, implement, and evaluate criteria and processes for board supervision and evaluation of the superintendent and in all areas of the system that: (a) focus on improved professional practice; (b) are consistently regularly implemented; and (c) ensure the result of the supervision and evaluation processes are analyzed carefully and used to monitor and effectively adjust professional practices.

The Review Team made the decision to remove the school system from the **Under Review List**, based upon findings that the school system met three of the five priorities Hancock County School System was cited on and was well on the way to meeting the final two. These two priorities, which are

partially met, relate to strategic planning and staff evaluations. These two priorities will be assessed by the AdvancED Engagement Review Teams for Hancock Central Middle School and M. E. Lewis Elementary School during the 2017-2018 school year.

The Review Team and AdvancED commended Hancock County School District and everyone who assisted in the school improvement process for the progress made on all Improvement Priorities. The team encouraged the members of the Hancock County School System “to keep up the spirit of improvement and make a concerted effort to address student achievement in a thoughtful manner.”



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July 3, 2017

Dr. Charles Culver, Superintendent
Hancock County Board of Education
11311 Highway 15 North
P.O. Box 488
Sparta, GA 31087

Dear Dr. Culver,

On June 16, 2017, the AdvancED Georgia Council reviewed and took action on the Monitoring Review Report from the on-site review held on May 15 and 16, 2017.

The AdvancED Georgia Council accepted the report and approved the team's recommendation to remove the Under Review status from Hancock County Schools. I congratulate you, your staff, and community on the district's continued commitment to AdvancED Accreditation.

The system is expected to continue to address the remaining Improvement Priorities. The Monitoring Review Report outlines directives that should be used to guide the district in completing these requirements. The progress on the Improvement Priorities will be assessed by the Engagement Review Teams for Hancock Middle School and M.E. Lewis, Sr. Elementary School, to be conducted during the 2017-18 school year. Information regarding this process will be provided by the AdvancED Georgia Office.

Once again, I extend congratulations on your system's commitment to excellence in education. Hancock County Schools should be proud of its dedication to continuous improvement and quality assurance focused on helping every student succeed.

Sincerely,

Annette Bohling, J.D.
Chief Operations Officer, AdvancED

Cc. Greg Arnsdorff, Ed.D., Director, AdvancED Georgia

Enc. AdvancED Monitoring Review Report 2017

