



AdvancED™ External Review Exit Report

**Whitfield County School District
November 3-6, 2013**



Accreditation is...

An international protocol for institutions committed to systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement

- Builds capacity of the institution to improve and sustain student learning
- Stimulates and improves effectiveness and efficiency throughout the institution



Balanced Accreditation

Analysis and Evaluation of

- **Impact of Teaching and Learning**
- **Leadership Capacity**
- **Resource Utilization**

External Review

- The External Review Team
 - Comprised of professional peers with diverse experience and rich contextual perspective
 - Determines the institution's effectiveness in meeting the requirements of accreditation
- The External Review Process
 - Provides analysis and evaluation
 - Delivers valuable feedback and direction for improvement



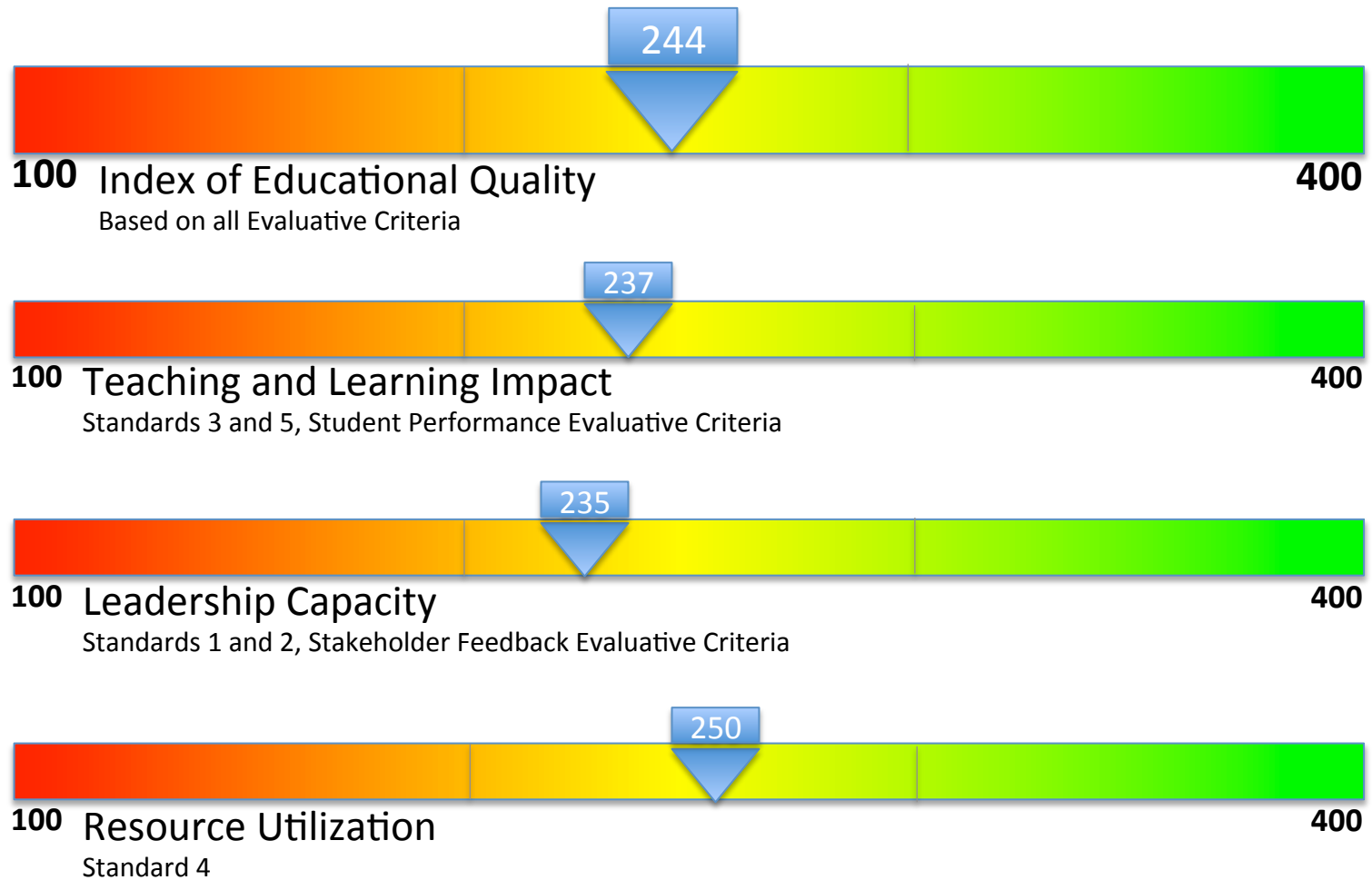
Interviews & Observations

- 408 Interviews
- 65 Administrators
- 5 School Board Members
- 91 Teachers
- 105 Students
- 142 Parents
- 50 Effective Learning Environment Observations

Learning Environment Ratings

1	Equitable Learning Environment	2.80
2	High Expectations Environment	2.76
3	Supportive Learning Environment	3.16
4	Active Learning Environment	3.02
5	Progress Monitoring and Feedback Environment	2.87
6	Well-Managed Learning Environment	3.19
7	Digital Learning Environment	2.05

Index of Educational Quality



Powerful Practices

The assessment program using Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assesses student academic growth. The clear and comprehensive student assessment is given three times annually to measure and monitor student achievement. Students monitor their individual growth by consistently setting learning goals from the data received from the assessment.

Required Actions

Develop systemic rigorous performance and achievement criteria for all students to provide an equitable process for grading, evaluating and reporting student progress that is understandable to students and their parents and results in improved instructional practice.

Required Action

- Review, revise and implement the system wide Response to Interventions (RTI) guidelines to ensure that the system meets the individual needs of all students.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Review and develop an active system-wide monitoring process of student level, building level and system level data to ensure continuous improvement and professional development at all levels.
- Develop and implement a system wide framework for professional learning communities to build teacher capacity and support vertical and horizontal instructional improvement with high performing research-based practices that lead to student success.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Develop and implement a leadership development program for all areas of the system that expands the leadership capacity across the system and leads to succession planning and meeting the future needs of the system.



Based on our findings from the review of evidence, this External Review Team recommends that

Whitfield County Schools

be accredited, pending further review and final action by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission.

Accreditation Decision

External Review

Completed!

**AdvancED Office Reviews and Sends
Report Back to You**

30 Days

**AdvancED Accreditation Commission
Grants Accreditation and Status**

**January
June**

Final Thoughts

- On behalf of the External Review Team, we extend:
 - Our appreciation for your hospitality, support, and professionalism;
 - Our respect and acknowledgement of your efforts to improve quality; and
 - Our congratulations for your progress toward achieving Accreditation as a quality institution.



Our mission is to lead and empower the education community to ensure that all learners realize their maximum potential.