



NEWS RELEASE

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AdvancED Quality Assurance Team Recommends District Accreditation to the Waterford School District

December 11, 2009, Waterford, Mich. – The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) Quality Assurance Team has recommended to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission that the Waterford School District be awarded International District Accreditation. AdvancED/NCA represents 23,000 public and private schools, consisting of 15 million students worldwide. They represent schools in 65 countries, 30 states and the Navajo Nation, and the Department of Defense Education Activity. Once reviewed and approved by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, the District and all its schools are granted a 5-year term accreditation without exception, meaning the District does not have any areas of deficiency.

AdvancED District Accreditation is a systems approach to improving student performance results and organizational effectiveness. District Accreditation recognizes that increasing student achievement is a result of how well all of the parts of the education system – the district, school, and classroom – work together to meet the needs of students. To earn accreditation, districts must meet the AdvancED Standards, engage in continuous improvement, and demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review.

“AdvancED District Accreditation is a milestone and an indicator of quality for the Waterford School District. We’re extremely pleased that the visiting Quality Assurance Review awarded this mark of excellence,” says Superintendent Robert Neu.

Quality Assurance Review Team Chair Dr. Jacqueline Beery said “We will remember the passion and commitment of the Waterford School District staff, which is a culture in Waterford and is

not always evident in other Districts". The Quality Assurance Team also commended the Waterford School District for:

- The passion and pride of the staff as an educational community, due in part, to the allocation and protection of time for professional learning and collaboration during the school day which has facilitated systemic professional development for staff aimed at increasing student achievement.
- The systemic use of Online Resource for Curriculum and Assessment (ORCA) district-wide, beginning this school year for data-driven decision making and curriculum alignment to impact classroom instruction.
- The multitude of effective intervention programs to ensure student success.
- The support, loyalty, and trust for the District by the stakeholders is evident by the amount of community support and partnerships.

There are 552 school districts in Michigan and currently only 20 have received District accreditation, making the Waterford School District in the top 5% of accredited school districts in the country.

Information related to the Waterford School District's accreditation process and exit report published by the Quality Assurance Team may be found at www.waterford.k12.mi.us/accreditation.

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