

Quality Assurance Methods

Provide a brief description of the school system's processes for quality assurance. Please answer the following questions in the description:

1. What processes does the district use to monitor and document improvement?

Orange County Schools is committed to ensuring quality standards and engaging in quality continuous improvement through a process of internal and external quality assurance methods. For many years schools in Orange County Schools have met the criteria for accreditation. Eleven of the thirteen schools completed and achieved accreditation with an external review. Internal assurance is provided with regularly monitoring and documenting adherence to quality standards with reviews of school improvement plans, IGPs, Classroom Walk Throughs, school visits, principal and teacher evaluations, and professional development with a focus on student learning. Periodic school visits by district leadership are scheduled to offer support, verify implementation of strategies, and provide meaningful feedback.

2. How does the district provide meaningful feedback and support to its schools and across the district?

Orange County Schools has continuously supported individual school accreditation within the district and embraced challenge to move to district accreditation. The individual schools participate in two reviews each year. The fall review provides feedback on the current data and status of the school. Strategies are discussed and recommendations as well as celebrations are collaboratively explored. A district leadership representative from the Curriculum and Instruction Team is assigned to support the School Improvement Team. The second review is held in the spring to examine progress on goals and strategies.

In addition to providing student data, the district provides survey results of needs assessments, PLC surveys, parent surveys and program initiatives to the schools. Curriculum staff frequently meets with principals and present during staff meeting standards and program strategies to engage in continuous improvement. The Leadership Team monthly meetings provide opportunities for collaboration as well as speakers to provide quality training. The annual Leadership Retreat provides an interactive opportunity for the schools across the district to participate in professional development focusing on increasing leadership effectiveness and student achievement.

3. How does the district ensure that the AdvancED standards are met by all the schools and the district as a whole?

Orange County Schools provides a collaborative interaction with schools, stakeholders and community partnership. This relationship allows for the continuous interaction of all parties on a daily basis. School progress is monitored with classroom walk throughs, dialog with administrators, teachers and parents and required evaluations and analysis of data. Orange County Schools provides the standards information, supports the schools with, resources and monitors the process.

Review teams from across North Carolina have conducted interviews with a variety of stakeholders, conducted classroom observations, reviewed artifacts, and provided commendations and recommendations for continuous school improvement required state and federal programs and SACS reviews in the schools with individual accreditation.

4. How does the district regularly collect, use, and communicate results?

Orange County Schools has consistently collected data, analyze data for each school, provided training as needed, and monitored the process. A yearly report is provided for the Board of Education and communicated to the public. Schools utilize the data to guide discussion and School Improvement Plan. This year the district used data to engage in a comprehensive process of strategic planning which involved a variety of stakeholders across the district and communicated results.