

### **Response 3:**

An explanation of upcoming renewals/accreditation (AdvancED, State Department of Education, etc.) and the time frames they cover

### **SC Department of Education Strategic/Renewal 5-Year Plan:**

Strategic/Renewal Plans are required by State Board of Education Regulation 43-261 (District and School Planning) to be developed every five years by each school and district using the most current research-based practices designed to increase student achievement. The plans are updated annually. (For related information on current status of accreditation, see 2015-2016 Accreditation Classification Memo and 2015-2016 Accreditation Update)

According to the five-year cycle, SCSDB is scheduled to submit an annual update on a new Strategic/School Renewal 5-Year Plan to the South Carolina Department of Education in the spring of 2017.

As further information, the focus areas for the 5-Year Plan Strategic/Renewal Plan are provided below.

Performance Goal Areas for Strategic/Renewal 5-Year Plan:

- Student Achievement
- Teacher/Administrator Quality
- School Climate (Parent Involvement, Safe and Healthy Schools, etc.)
- District Priority (Optional)
- Read to Succeed Reading Plan

### **AdvancED Accreditation:**

AdvancED Performance Accreditation requires that institutions must:

- Meet the AdvancED Standards and accreditation policies.
- Demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review.
- Engage in continuous improvement.
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As further information, listed below are the *AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools*:

### **AdvancED Standards for Quality Schools**

#### ***Standard 1: Purpose and Direction***

The school maintains and communicates a purpose and direction that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

#### ***Standard 2: Governance and Leadership***

The school operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and school effectiveness.

***Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning***

The school's curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning.

***Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems***

The school has resources and provides services that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

***Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement***

The school implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and school effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.

SCSDB will host an AdvancED External Review on March 19-21, 2017 (See Attached Confirmation from AdvancED.). SCSDB's current accreditation status is 2011/2012 to 2016/2017.



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** District Superintendent  
**FROM:** Roy Stehle, Director  
Office of Federal and State Accountability  
**DATE:** March 24, 2016  
**RE:** Accreditation Classification for the 2015–16 School Year

**District Operations–SC SCHOOL OF DEAF AND BLIND**

The current classification for district operations is reflected in the information provided below. This classification was assigned based upon the accreditation process or the monitoring process for the 2015–16 school year. If your district operation was not required to go through state accreditation or monitoring this year, the district's status will reflect the AdvancED accreditation classification.

**AdvancED Accredited**

Final classifications for your district and schools are reflected in the attached summary. These classifications were assigned based upon state accreditation, monitoring, or AdvancED for the 2015–16 school year and will be presented to the State Board of Education on April 12, 2016, in the Annual Accreditation Report.

Please contact Margaret Walden at 803-734-3749 or by e-mail at [mwalden@ed.sc.gov](mailto:mwalden@ed.sc.gov) regarding any questions or concerns.

## Accreditation Update 2015—16

This update is provided to the district contact person for the purpose of identifying any remaining deficiencies in the district. Documentation to resolve these deficiencies can be faxed to 803-734-6225. The upper right hand corner of each faxed item must include the name and phone number of the sender, the school name, and the school identification number. If clarification for any of these deficiencies is needed, contact Margaret by phone at 803-734-3749 or by e-mail at mwalden@ed.sc.gov.

<b>SIDN</b>	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Num D</b>	<b>Final Status</b>	<b>Deficiencies</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>S C SCHOOL FOR DEAF AND BLIND</b>					
5707444	Board of Trustees–SC SCHOOL OF DEAF AND BLIND	4	AdvancED Accredited		
5707000	District Operations–SC SCHOOL OF DEAF AND BLIND	4	AdvancED Accredited		
5707011	Cedar Springs Academy	4	AdvancED Accredited		
5707010	SC School for the Blind Elementary/Middle	4	AdvancED Accredited		
5707005	SC School for the Blind High	4	AdvancED Accredited		
5707009	SC School for the Deaf Elementary/Middle	4	AdvancED Accredited		
5707007	SC School for the Deaf High	4	Accredited/All Clear		



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480.773.6900  
480.773.6846 fax

May 26, 2016

Dr. Page McCraw  
South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind  
Walker Hall  
355 Cedar Springs Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29302-4628

Dear Ms. McCraw:

This letter confirms the dates of **March 19-21, 2017** for the AdvancED External Review of your school. It also provides important logistical information pertaining to the visit.

The External Review is integral to the accreditation process. It is the value added component of accreditation and school improvement that benefits all participants and stakeholders sharing the experience.

**Purpose.** The purpose of the External Review is to:

1. Evaluate the school's adherence to the AdvancED Standards. (available at [www.advanc-ed.org/resources](http://www.advanc-ed.org/resources))
2. Assess the efficacy and impact of the school's improvement process.
3. Assess the effectiveness of the school's methods for quality assurance.
4. Identify Powerful Practices, Opportunities for Improvement, and provide Improvement Priorities for school improvement.
5. Deliver a brief exit report to school officials and the school community and prepare a written report that reflects the team's professional observations.
6. Make an accreditation recommendation to the AdvancED Commission.

**Lead Evaluator and Team Composition.** The State Office will appoint the Lead Evaluator and team members for the review. Team members are selected for the variety of experience, special expertise, and conceptual insights they can bring, not only to validate your school's work, but also to enhance and extend it. The team may include teachers, principals, directors, AdvancED professional staff, or representatives from state agencies. We will contact you once the Lead Evaluator and team members have been appointed.

**Expenses.** The fees for the visit will be invoiced to the school. This External Review Fee will include the Lead Evaluator's Honorarium of \$500.00 as well as an administrative fee of \$250. Additionally, travel expenses, and reimbursement for food for the team members are paid by the school following the visit. The External Review Fee will apply only during the fiscal year in which the institution hosts an External Review with AdvancED.

**Preparing for the External Review.** To prepare for the External Review, the school community engages in an in-depth Self Assessment of each of the five AdvancED Standards, using the Self Assessment Workbook for Schools which is available at [www.advanc-ed.org/resources](http://www.advanc-ed.org/resources). Your school should designate at least one person to be the primary contact for the External Review. The entire staff of your school should be involved in some way in the preparation for the External Review and in the completion of the Internal Review utilizing the Self Assessment workbook.

**Internal Review.** The school completes and submits a Self Assessment Workbook which includes:

- Self Assessment
- Executive Summary
- Improvement Plan: (this is submitted separately, and can use a corporate-provided template or one of your own choosing). For South Carolina schools, the model plan submitted each April to the State Department of Education is acceptable.
- Assurances: Send an electronic copy back to our office to Sara McLeod ([smcleod@advanc-ed.org](mailto:smcleod@advanc-ed.org)) and Darrell Barringer ([dbarringer@advanc-ed.org](mailto:dbarringer@advanc-ed.org)) along with access to your Representative Evidences (see next section). The **Self Assessment Workbook** and **access to electronic Evidences** are due in our office at least four weeks prior to the External Review.

**Representative Evidences.** AdvancED asks that your school provide access to electronic copies of evidences *at least four weeks* in advance of the scheduled review. Access is sent to the operations office to review and disseminate to the Lead Evaluator assigned to the school's review. Electronic means should be used (i.e. school website, Google, Wiki, Dropbox, LiveBinders, etc.) to provide the team access to the school's artifacts.

**Resources.** The resources for schools will prove useful to you as the school completes the Self Assessment Workbook and prepares for the External Review. These resources can be found at [www.advanc-ed.org/resources](http://www.advanc-ed.org/resources).

**Support.** We are available to assist you as you prepare for your External Review. You may contact us anytime at the AdvancED South Carolina office: 888.413.3669 ext. 5652.

We look forward to working with you as you host your AdvancED External Review.

Sincerely,

Sara McLeod, Administrative Assistant  
AdvancED South Carolina