

July 15, 2008

Dr. Dennis L. Thompson, Superintendent
District School Board of Collier County
5775 Osceola Trail
Naples, FL 34109

Dear Dr. Thompson:

Enclosed is a copy of the report of the Special Review Team for the visit to the District School Board of Collier County on June 3-4, 2008. The report was reviewed and acted on by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission at its June 25, 2008 meeting. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) is an accreditation division of AdvancED. Please note that it is the responsibility of school officials to share the contents of the report with the board of education and the community.

The findings and observations in the report indicate that there remain challenges facing the District School Board of Collier County. However, the report notes that the school district is beginning to make progress in addressing such challenges. As a result, the Special Review Team recommended that the AdvancED Accreditation Commission vote to continue the district on Warned Status with a follow-up visit to be scheduled after January 1, 2009 but prior to March 31, 2009. The AdvancED Accreditation Commission affirmed the recommendation of the Special Review Team and voted to continue the accreditation of the school system on Warned Status. Although the district continues to be in violation of the Governance and Leadership standard for accreditation, "continued warned status" provides the district additional time to continue its efforts to comply with the standard. The Governance and Leadership standard for accreditation is:

Standard 2 Governance and Leadership

The system provides governance and leadership that promote student performance and system effectiveness.

Governance

In fulfillment of this standard, the system operates under the jurisdiction of a governing board that:

- 2.1 Establishes and communicates policies and procedures that provide for the effective operation of the system
- 2.2 Recognizes and preserves the executive, administrative, and leadership authority of the administrative head of the system

- 2.3 Ensures compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws, standards, and regulations
- 2.4 Implements policies and procedures that provide for the orientation and training of the governing board
- 2.5 Builds public support, secures sufficient resources, and acts as a steward of the system's resources
- 2.6 Maintains access to legal counsel to advise or obtain information about legal requirements and obligations
- 2.7 Maintains adequate insurance or equivalent resources to protect its financial stability and administrative operations

It is important that school officials begin to review and consider the findings and recommendations in the report. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the school system to identify and implement corrective action steps to address the recommendations and standard violations noted in the report. As such steps are implemented; school officials should ensure that appropriate evidence, including documentation, is maintained.

The intent of the enclosed report is to communicate recommendations that are designed to stimulate improvement throughout the school system. In addition, the accreditation standards serve as a guide to providing a quality system of schools that promote and support student learning. As a fully accredited school system, your schools and the community have made a commitment to meeting the standards for accreditation and a program of continuous improvement.

In closing, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the enclosed report.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Elgart, Ed.D., President/CEO
AdvancED

cc. Dr. Lucy Hayden, Chair, Special Review Team
Dr. Pat Wentz, Director, Florida State Office
Dr. Annette Bohling, Senior Vice President for Accreditation