



Northwest Accreditation Commission Becomes Accreditation Division of AdvancED Announcement to Accredited Schools and Districts

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share that the Board of Trustees and Commission of the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) approved bylaws that establish NWAC as an accreditation division of AdvancED, expanding our capacity and resources to deliver accreditation and school improvement services to you.

With our shared mission to improve the quality of education around the world, by joining with the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) under the parent organization AdvancED, we not only build on this tradition, but also our support for schools and school systems that are committed to continuous improvement.

NWAC, by joining with AdvancED, becomes part of a world-wide network serving nearly 30,000 public and private schools and districts in over 70 countries. Through this global network, educational providers of all types benefit from:

- international recognition;
- shared standards of educational excellence;
- a unified, clear and powerful accreditation process; and
- external evaluation focused on continuous improvement.

Additionally, all schools in the AdvancED network, including NWAC schools, will have access to the Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools (ASSIST), a state-of-the-art, web-enabled platform for accreditation and school improvement.

We will continue to accredit under the NWAC name so that your school maintains the brand recognition in our region, while gaining access to a broader network of schools and greater resources. NWAC schools scheduled for an External Review in 2012-13 will work with their state office to determine their readiness to use the new AdvancED Standards or if the school should prepare for the visit based on the old NWAC Standards. Beginning in 2013-14 all NWAC schools (except for Third Party Agreements) will be using the new Standards as part of the AdvancED Accreditation Process. Schools that are accredited through a Third Party agreement with NWAC will continue to honor the agreement. More details regarding the AdvancED Accreditation Process will be available in the coming months.

We are excited about the opportunity that joining AdvancED offers to benefit school systems, schools, and ultimately students through our shared commitment to education quality. I look forward to sharing more with you over the course of the coming school year.

Best Regards,

Georgia Loutensock
Utah State Director, NWAC