

Name of Association	NCA (Cognia)
Contact Person	Nancy Bolz
Date Report Submitted (mm/dd/yyyy)	08/20/2019
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State	AZ
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Website	www.cognia.org
Email	nancy.bolz@cognia.org
Current Recognition Status	Recognized
Last Year Status Was Awarded	2018

Accredited Schools 2 Years Ago	34
Accredited Schools 1 Year Ago	37
Accredited Schools Current School Year	37
Pre Accredited Schools 2 Years Ago	2
Pre Accredited Schools 1 Year Ago	3
Pre Accredited Schools Current School Year	4
Total in Accreditation Process 2 Years Ago	36
Total in Accreditation Process 1 Year Ago	40
Total in Accreditation Process Current School Year	41
Total Member Schools 2 Years Ago	34
Total Member Schools 1 Year Ago	37
Total Member Schools Current School Year	37
a. New Applications	2
b. School Site Visits (all purposes)	13

c. Schools Awarded Full Accreditation Status (first-time)	1
d. Schools Denied Accreditation	0
e. Schools Placed on Exception, Warning, or Probation	0
f. Accreditation Re-Evaluations	0
g. Total Number of Students Enrolled (all schools in the accreditation process)	26015
h. Total Number of Teachers	865
i. Conferences/Workshops/Training Seminars	1 regional conference; 1 full day workshop
	Regional conference in Chicago with keynote and multiple breakout sessions. One full-day workshop with either 75-minute sessions, half on eProve tools and half on the accreditation process.
	Describe
j. Other Accreditation Activities/Services	Several webinars
	Available throughout the region on eProve and several accreditation protocols
	Describe_1
k. Total Number of High School Graduates	19781
l. Total Number of School Employees (paid administrators, teachers, instructional staff)	1491
m. Median Tuition	\$9828
n. Total Dollar Amount of Need-Based Financial Aid Distributed	\$3817445
o. Total Dollar Amount of Employee Financial Aid (tuition remission)	\$1593686
p. Percentage of Students Receiving Financial Aid	45%
q.. Mean Full-Time K-12 Teacher Salaries	\$34366
	1 Year Ago
	1 Year Ago_1
	1 Year Ago_2
	1 Year Ago_3
	2 Years Ago
	2 Years Ago

2 Years Ago_1

2 Years Ago_2

Current School Year

Current School Year_1

Current School Year_2

Current School Year_3

1. Purpose/objectives of the accrediting association

Changed Since Last Reporting

1. Type of Changes

Merged with Measured Progress, but purpose concepts are the same.

1. Upload File

[introducing_cognia.pdf](#)

2.. Location of Accreditation Association Headquarters

Remained the Same

2. Type of Changes

3. Accreditation and Pre-Accreditation Status Levels

Remained the Same

3. Type of Changes

4. Public Relations Flier and Key Publications

Remained the Same

4. Type of Changes

4. Upload File

5. Articles of Incorporation, ByLaws

Changed Since Last Reporting

5. Type of Changes

Related to merger

5. Upload File

[advanced_policies_and_procedures_effective_6.29.18.pdf](#)

6. Legal Governing Body

Changed Since Last Reporting

6. Type of Changes

Merger

6. Upload File

[cognia_leadership.pdf](#)

7. Accreditation Procedures

Changed Since Last Reporting

7. Type of Changes

i3 rubric with key concepts were used to rate the standards

7. Upload File

[i3-rubric.pdf](#)

8. Application Form/Procedures

Remained the Same

8. Type of Changes	https://www.advanc-ed.org/form/ain-membership-form
9. Nondiscriminatory Policies	Remained the Same
9. Type of Changes	
9. Upload File	
10. Strategic/Master Plan	Changed Since Last Reporting
10. Type of Changes	As per merger
10. Upload File	cognia_strategic_priorities.pdf
11. Accreditation Manual/Handbook	Changed Since Last Reporting
11. Type of Changes	Minor changes..."Cognia" will be added later
11. Upload File	accreditation-handbook.pdf
12. Accreditation Fees and Charges	Changed Since Last Reporting
12. Type of Changes	Increased incrementally per type of school
13. Other Items Related to Standards or Substantive Change	Remained the Same
13. Type of Changes	
13. Upload File	
Upload File (A)	cognia-advanced_school_listing_form_-_opsac.xlsx
Upload File (B)	cognia_leadership.pdf
Upload File (C-1)	advanced_policies_and_procedures_effective_6.29.18.pdf
Upload File (C-2)	advanced_measured_progress_history_at-a-glance.pdf
Upload File (c-3)	eprove.pdf
Upload File ((C-4)	
Upload File (D-1)	measured_progress_assessments.pdf
Upload File (D-2)	stem_certification_for_early_learning_schools.pdf
Upload File (D-3)	
Name	Dr. Nancy Bolz

AdvancED - North Central Association
Tempe Office, 7665 S Research Dr., Tempe, AZ 85284
700-148-6932
www.advanc-ed.org

Dr. Nancy Bolz, Director, Engagement Services

Accredited Schools in Oklahoma	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Grades	Email Address	Head of School
1 Bishop Kelley High School	3905 S Hudson Ave	Tulsa	OK	74135-560	918-627-3390	9-12	jfranz@bishopkelley.o	James Franz
2 Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School	801 NW 50th Street	Oklahoma City	OK	73118-600	405-842-6638	9-12	dmorton@bmcchs.org	David Morton
3 Cascia Hall Preparatory School	2520 S Yorktown Ave	Tulsa	OK	74114-280	918-746-2600	6-12	pcook@casciahall.com	Philip Cook
4 Chickasaw Nation Early Education Program	300 Rosedale Rd.	Ada	OK	74820	(580) 421-7711	PK	robert.pickens@chicke	Robert Pickens
5 FAA Academy	FAA Academy PO Box 25082	Oklahoma City	OK	73125-82	405-954-6900	Adult	keith.deberry@faa.gov	Keith Deberry
6 Good Shepherd Catholic School	13404 N. Meridian	Oklahoma City	OK	73120	(405) 752-2264	PK-8	pfiler@goodshepherd	Patricia Filer
7 Guthrie Job Corps Center	3106 W. University	Guthrie	OK	73044-097	405-282-9341	12; Adult	zimmer.jill@jobcorps.c	Jill Zimmer
8 Keystone Adventure School and Farm	19201 N. Western	Edmond	OK	73012	(405) 216-5400	PK-5	office@keystoneadver	Jennifer Dunning
9 Lawton Academy of Arts and Sciences	1911 NW 72nd St	Lawton	OK	73505-260	580-536-1900	PK-12	kay.johnson@lawtona	Kay Johnson
10 Mercy School Institute	14001 N. Harvey Ave	Edmond	OK	73013	405-748-5500	PK-12	mercyschoolokc@gma	Buthiana Jwayyed
11 Metro Christian Academy	6363 S Trenton Avenue	Tulsa	OK	74136	918-745-9868	PK-12	kcurrivean@metro.c	Keith Currivean
12 Mission Academy	7101 N Classen Blvd	Oklahoma City	OK	73116-711	405-843-9100	9-12	arice@teenrecoveryso	Andrew Rice
13 Monte Cassino School	2206 South Lewis	Tulsa	OK	74114-310	918 742 3364	PK-8	ksmith@montecassinc	Kevin M. Smith
14 Mount St. Mary Catholic High School	2801 S Shartel Ave	Oklahoma City	OK	73109-223	405-631-8865	9-12	tdenegri@mountstma	Talita DeNegri
15 Paths to Independence	400813 W 1960 Dr	Bartlesville	OK	74006-166	918-914-9920	PK-12	paths@newsguy.com	Clair Bartley
16 Peace Academy	4620 S. Irvington Avenue	Tulsa	OK	74135	918-627-1040	PK-12	race2peace@yahoo.c	Nuredin Giayash
17 Positive Tomorrows	PO Box 61190	Oklahoma City	OK	73146	405-556-5082	K-5	sagel@positivetomorr	Susan Angel
18 Primrose School of Edmond	15000 N. Western Ave.	Edmond	OK	73013-189	405-285-6787	PK-K	stanner@primroseedn	Sharon Tanner
19 Primrose School of NW Oklahoma City	6101 NW 139th St	Oklahoma City	OK	73142-193	405-721-2200	PK	achoate@primrosenw	Andrea Choate
20 Primrose School of South Tulsa	10185 S. 85th	Tulsa	OK	74133	(918) 364-0021	PK-K	kmiller@primrosesou	Kelli Miller
21 Primrose School of Southwest Oklahoma	1520 SW 119th St	Oklahoma City	OK	73170-493	405-793-6000	PK-K	hmorris@primrosesw	Helen Morris
22 Sequoyah Schools	PO Box 520	Tahlequah	OK	74465	918-453-5400	9-12	jolyn-choate@cherok	Jolyn Choate
23 Special CARE, Inc.	12201 N Western Ave	Oklahoma City	OK	73114-802	405-752-5112	PK-K	pamnewby@specialca	Pam Newby
24 Stonebridge Academy	PO Box 99	Okmulgee	OK	74447-99	918-752-1200	PK-8	salexander@sbridgea	Sarah Alexander
25 Talking Leaves Job Corps Center	PO Box 1066	Tahlequah	OK	74465	(918) 456-9959	12; Adult	littlejohn.jay@jobco	Jay Littlejohn
26 The Academy of Classical Christian Studies	1120 E Hefner Rd	Oklahoma City	OK	73131-160	405-478-2077	PK-12	ncarr@theacademyok	Nathan Carr
27 The Academy of Classical Christian Studies	1120 E Hefner Rd	Oklahoma City	OK	73131-160	405-585-7275	6-12	twedel@theacademyc	Todd Wedel
28 The Academy of Classical Christian Studies	1120 E Hefner Rd	Oklahoma City	OK	73131-160	405-478-2077	PK-5	ataylor@theacademyc	Ann Taylor
29 The Academy of Classical Christian Studies	1120 E Hefner Rd	Oklahoma City	OK	73131-160	405-478-2077	PK-5	athompson@theacade	Alison Thompson
30 Tulsa Hope Academy	PO Box 3632	Tulsa	OK	74101-363	918-398-8192	9-12	debramann@tulsahop	Debra Mann
31 Tulsa Job Corps Center	1133 N Lewis Ave.	Tulsa	OK	74110	918-585-9111	12; Adult	hilliard.carl@jobcor	Carl Hilliard
32 Undercroft Montessori School	3745 S Hudson Ave	Tulsa	OK	74135-560	918-622-2890	PK-8	nancy.davis@undercr	Nancy Davis
33 WovenLife	701 NE 13th St	Oklahoma City	OK	73104-500	405-239-2525	PK-K	jahood@wovenlifeok	Jana LaHood

Candidate Schools

Texoma Autism and Behavior Intervention	7485 Sunshine Lane	Marietta	OK	73448	(580) 221-0315	PK-5	ro.hartman@yahoo.c	Rowlena Duncan Hartman
Drexel Academy	1 West 36th Street, North Ste. 3	Tulsa	OK	74106	(918) 986-9599	PK-3	c.gray@drexelacadem	Clevetta Gray

Applicant Schools

Cristo Rey Catholic High School	900 N. Portland	Oklahoma City	OK	73107	405-896-2300	9-12	renee.porter@cristore	Renee Porter	Applicant
Osage Nation Immersion School	1071 Grandview Lane	Pawhuska	OK	74056	(918) 287-5279	PK-2	pmartin924@gmail.c	Patrick Martin	

Partner Schools Co-Accredited with AdvancED

Oklahoma Christian Academy	1101 E. 9th Street	Edmond	OK	73034	405-844-6478	PK-12	btatum@ocacademy.c	Brandon Tatum
Tri County Technology Center	6101 SE Nowata Road	Bartlesville	OK	74006-602	(918) 331-3203	Postsecondary	ifields@tctc.org	Lindel Fields
Wesleyan Christian School	1780 Silver Lake Rd	Bartlesville	OK	74006	918-333-8631	K-12	rclark@wcsbartlesvil	Rodney (Rocky) Clark
Mingo Valley Christian School	8304 S. 107th East Avenue	Tulsa	OK	74133	(918) 294-0404	K-12	boydchitwood@ming	G Chitwood
Summit Christian Academy	200 E Broadway St	Broken Arrow	OK	74012-390	918- 251-1997	K-12		Dan Giddens
Family of Faith Christian School	PO Box 1442	Shawnee	OK	74802-144	405-273-5331	K-12	chrisbelyeu@yahoo.c	Chris Belyeu
Trinity School	321 NW 36th Street	Oklahoma City	OK	73118	405-525-5600	K-12	jvaught@trinityschool	Jennifer Vaught
Lincoln Christian School	1003 N. 129th East Ave.	Tulsa	OK	74116-213	918-234-8863	PK-12	wwarren@lincolnchri	Whitney Warren
Victory Life Academy	PO Box 427	Durant	OK	74702-427	580-920-0850	K-12	sarah.morrison@victo	Sarah Morrison
Cookson Hills Christian School, Inc.	60416 Highway 10	Kansas	OK	74347-704	918-597-2192	1-12	melissa.jackson@cook	Melissa Jackson
Community Christian School	3002 Broce Drive	Norman	OK	73072	405-329-2500	K-12	ccsoffice@ccsroyals.c	Barbara Ohsfeldt
William Bradford Christian School	2448 East 81st Street, Suite 600	Tulsa	OK	74137	918-825-7038	K-12	lstamper@wbcslions.c	Larry Stamper
Victory Christian School	7700 S Lewis Ave	Tulsa	OK	74136-770	918-491-7724	K-12	jcherry@victory.com	Jim Cherry
The Cross Christian Academy	PO Box 670	Disney	OK	74340	918-435-8206	7-12	michael.lokey@okteer	Michael Lokey
Destiny Christian School	PO Box 15300	Oklahoma City	OK	73155-530	405-677-6000	PK-12	jim.howard@destinyw	Jim Howard

▶ Assessment That Impacts Learning

Measured Progress offers a comprehensive set of tools built to national and state standards that helps inform educators curriculum decisions and demonstrates student growth.



Products

▶ Classroom Resources

Improve teaching and learning with our formative assessment tools for reading, mathematics, and science.

District Assessments

Use our interim and benchmark assessments to measure growth within and across years.

Assessment Services

Create customized assessments based on your district's curriculum and pacing.

Services

Get help to implement your local assessment program and make a lasting impact on student learning.



I need benchmark assessments aligned to our curriculum and pacing.



My students need to prepare for the rigor of summative tests.



I'd like to use more performance tasks within my district.



I need resources to help transition to new NGSS science standards.

Collaborating for Change

In this era of scrutiny and innovation, we help states create 21st-century assessment programs that address local, state, and federal requirements. Our proven expertise in the development and delivery of general and alternate statewide accountability assessments—for individual states and multi-state collaboratives—results in programs that meet the highest expectations for quality, accessibility, and alignment.



Customized Solutions

General

Our partnerships with states result in innovative statewide assessment programs across the curriculum for students in grades 3–high school.

Alternate

We help states combine the best of digital tools and personal interaction in assessments for students with severe cognitive difficulties.

Science

Learn about our resources and expertise that can help you make the transition to challenging 3-dimensional science standards.

End-of-Course

We work with you to create meaningful high-school measures that address your curricula, schedules, and requirements.

Performance

We help build performance assessments that provide powerful information about your students' understanding of complex standards.

A Full-Service Provider

Each of our operational service areas has proven expertise, and we excel at integrating your program across our services. Your extra benefit is that our operational staff members are committed to understanding your goals and collaborating to address challenges.



Program Management

Experienced partners who answer the phone and get you answers to help you manage your programs.



Item and Test Development

Rigorous content development accurately aligned to today's standards and configured to your needs, with input from your educators.



Online Testing

Robust features, expert partners, and a focus on integrating your tools for easy administration.



Paper and Pencil Administration

Meticulous processes to deliver and retrieve paper-based testing materials securely and accurately.



Scanning

Fine-tuned document scanning services that deliver accuracy, speed, and high volume.



Scoring

Professional hand scoring from a dedicated staff retaining a focus on each individual student among millions of responses.



Psychometrics

Targeted expertise from your team of psychometricians, based on continuing research and in-house tools development.



Data Analysis and Reporting

Data experts working with you to achieve smooth, accurate processing and designing reports that deliver insight to your stakeholders.

Enterprise Assessment Services (EAS) makes specific expertise available to fill gaps in a program or supplement another vendor's capabilities. We've recently provided EAS to Educational Records Bureau, Worldwide Interactive Network and its Florida Ready to Work program, and Pacific Metrics. For more information about EAS, [contact us](#).

Sharing Insights into Teaching and Learning

Research, white papers, and opinion pieces published by members of our staff reflect a candid view into the world of assessment. We also publish reports and host webinars that explore current issues in education. All of our activities support our mission of improving teaching and learning.



Opinions

Read commentaries published by Measured Progress Founder, Dr. Stuart Kahl, that shed light on current issues and trends in education and accountability assessment.

Research and White Papers

Our team of experts contribute to the discourse on important issues by publishing work in peer-reviewed and trade journals, as well as in educational media.

Assessment Insights Blog

We help decode the jargon. See our blog on a range of topics, from using formative tools in today's classrooms to understanding current issues in large-scale assessment.

Webinars

Our content and measurement experts present webinars that explore a range of education issues, often featuring guest speakers who are helping to make real change.

AdvancED® eProve™



empower. engage. evolve.



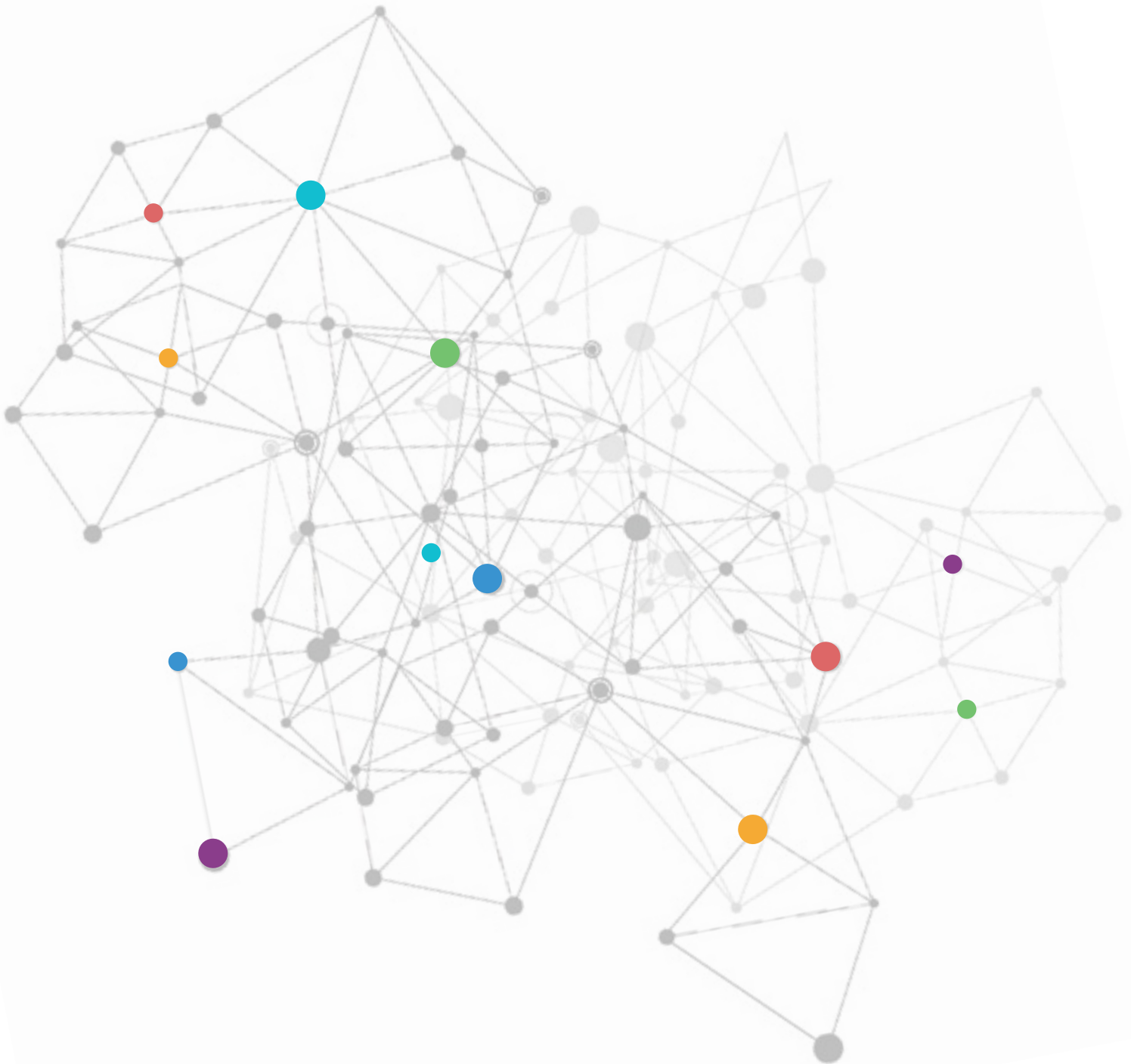
JOIN THE JOURNEY



All education institutions strive to create the best opportunities for students to learn and succeed.

But schools and school systems are complex ecosystems; nothing truly thrives – or even exists – in isolation. Disparate functions, requirements and day-to-day responsibilities create an abundance of data – assessments, transcripts, demographics, growth models and more – each representing a distinct part of the whole.

When it comes to improvement, educators increasingly rely on this data to help light the path from where they are to where they want to go. So how do you manage it all to ensure you are doing the right things at the right time?



The eProve Platform

This state-of-the-art productivity platform is AdvancED's web-based management information system designed specifically to support continuous improvement. Use it to conduct observations from mobile devices, create and administer custom surveys, tailor reports and more, creating numerous data points throughout the year.

The eProve platform is not just a data system; eProve empowers education institutions to make sense and use of their data, offering a valuable companion on the journey of continuous improvement. This integrated suite of tools creates a holistic improvement system that consolidates and converts your data into clear courses of action.

Designed with the end-user in mind, eProve provides a suite of powerful and user-friendly tools including:



eleot®

Conduct meaningful classroom observations focused on what truly matters – student engagement.



surveys

Build and administer customized stakeholder surveys and inventories, including proven AdvancED Certified Content, to collect and report meaningful and actionable data.



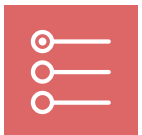
diagnostics

Uncover issues and evaluate the overall effectiveness of improvement efforts.



workspace

Assemble and manage collaborative teams for a structured and well-coordinated approach to institutional Engagement Reviews.



strategies*

Identify goals, define and monitor strategies, and allocate resources to create workable plans that result in measurable improvements.



analytics*

Synthesize, report and benchmark results accessing data across the entire platform.

**Under development*

The eProve platform aligns improvement efforts into a comprehensive solution that will **EMPOWER** education communities to **ENGAGE** each other as they **EVOLVE** to continuously create opportunities for every learner to succeed.

Learn more at advanc-ed.org/eProve.



About AdvancED

AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving the largest community of education professionals in the world. Founded on more than 100 years of work in continuous improvement, AdvancED combines the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change to empower Pre-K-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential.



advanc-ed.org

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9115 Westside Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30009

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OUR HISTORY AT A GLANCE

1983

Drs. Richard Hill and Stuart Kahl incorporate Advanced Systems in Measurement and Evaluation, and win contracts in Connecticut and Maine (an ongoing partner).

1985

Advanced Systems is awarded an assessment contract by the Massachusetts Department of Education, beginning a partnership that has continued uninterrupted with one or more assessment contracts.

1998

Upon Hill's retirement, Kahl assumes the roles of president and CEO.

We begin offering alternate assessments for students with most severe cognitive disabilities in Colorado.

2000

Advanced Systems changes to nonprofit status and becomes Measured Progress, in a move to acknowledge the company's mission and values and better align with its clients.

2004

Measured Progress responds to three states' common and individual requirements with innovative design and wins contract to create the New England Common Assessment Program—the first multi-state assessment consortium in the U.S.

2006

AdvancED, under the leadership of Dr. Mark Elgart, is established with the unification of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), and the National Study of School Evaluation (NSSE) creating a single, comprehensive organization dedicated to advancing the quality of education for students worldwide.

2008

Martin Borg joins as president; Kahl continues as CEO.

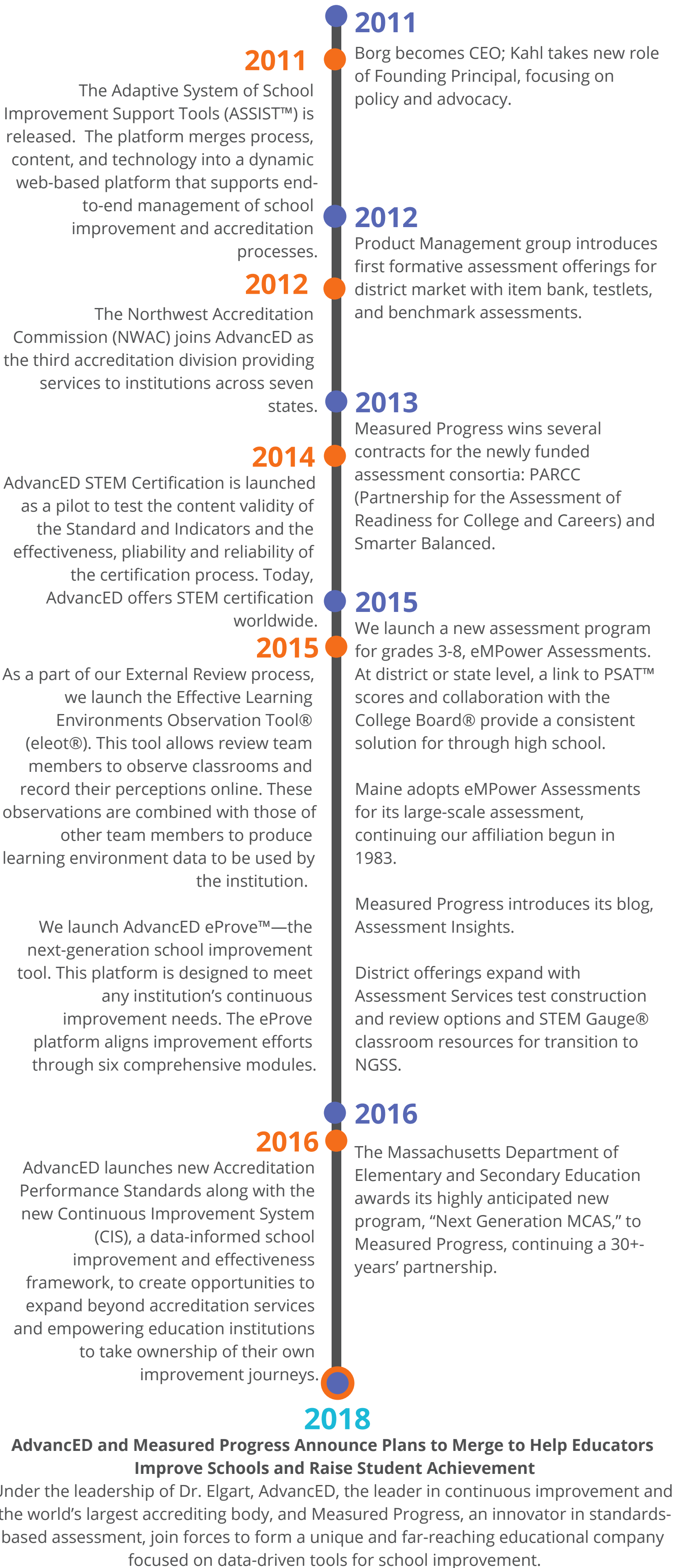
2008

AdvancED acquires the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA), expanding its reach to 50 states and 65 countries and eventually accrediting over 70 countries.

2009

AdvancED School System Accreditation outpaced School Accreditation with over 12,000 institutions in the AdvancED School System Accreditation model. AdvancED School System Accreditation is pivotal to leveraging improvement across an entire school system.

OUR HISTORY AT A GLANCE



Cognia Leaders

Cognia is governed by an independent Board of Directors and relies on a dedicated staff. Most critical to our success are the more than 18,000 volunteers—including educators, researchers, policy analysts, business leaders, and others—who've chosen to donate their time and expertise to help us conduct external reviews, analyze the data, and provide guidance to schools.



Mark Elgart, Ed.D.
President and CEO



Kenneth I. Bergman
Chief Legal Officer



Annette Bohling, J.D.
Chief Accreditation Officer



Martin Borg
Chief Solutions Officer



Angela Hilliard
Chief Marketing Officer



Heather Kinsey
Chief Operations Officer



Albert Mayo
Chief Technology Officer



Stephen Murphy
Chief Assessment Officer



Rosario Rodriguez
Chief Financial Officer



Denise Borders, Ed.D.
Board Member



Dan Caton
Board Member, Chair



Karen Cowe
Board Member



Ellen Haley
Board Member



Phil Jacobs
Board Member, Past Chair



Jeff Keller, Ph.D.
Board Member



Jerry Peacock
Board Member



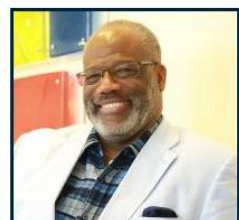
Paul A. Ramsey
Board Member



Jo Kirchner
Board Member



Richard Swartz
Board Member



Eugene White, Ph.D.
Board Member, Vice Chair



Janet Womack, Ph.D.
Board Member



AdvancED Policies and Procedures for Accreditation and Certification

Updated June 29, 2018

The AdvancED policies and procedures outlined in this document represent the unified policies and procedures for accreditation and certification from AdvancED and its Accreditation Divisions: North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), herein collectively referred to as AdvancED. These policies are effective immediately upon approval by the AdvancED Global Commission.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these policies and procedures, the listed terms are defined as:

1. **Accreditation.** A voluntary method of quality assurance developed more than 100 years ago by American universities and secondary schools and designed primarily to distinguish institutions adhering to a set of educational standards and policies. Accreditation applies to an entire institution or system.
2. **Certification.** A voluntary process of quality assurance that yields a documented recognition of achievement of a defined process or program. Certification may apply to a process or program of an institution or to an institution as a whole.
3. **Institution.** Any educational unit such as a school, association, charter school authorizer, corporation, or education service agency (ESA) that is seeking accreditation or certification as a single entity.
4. **System.** Any organization such as a corporation, district, ESA, or system of institutions that is seeking accreditation for the system as a whole, including the organization's system-level and all of the institutions managed by the system.

POLICY I: POLICY MANAGEMENT, APPLICABILITY AND RECOGNITION

- 1.01 **Management.** The revision and adoption of the accreditation and certification policies and procedures of AdvancED shall be the responsibility of the AdvancED Global Commission.
- 1.02 **Applicability.** These policies and procedures apply to all institutions or systems seeking AdvancED accreditation and/or certification.
- 1.03 **Recognition.** Institutions or systems that achieve accreditation and/or certification will be awarded the applicable accreditation and/or certification recognition representative of all three AdvancED accreditation and certification divisions.

POLICY II: TERM AND PROCESS REQUIREMENTS OF ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATION

2.01 Eligibility for Accreditation and Certification.

- a. Accreditation only. Accreditation may be conferred to an institution or a system. For systems accreditation, all schools managed by the system must be accredited or in the accreditation process, and the system-level is conferred accreditation in addition to the accreditation that is conferred to each institution.
- b. Certification only. Certification may be conferred to an institution but not to a system. All institutions within a system may be certified, but such a circumstance does not mean the system-level is conferred a certification in addition to its institutions. Certification is conferred under the name of the institution whether the certification was earned by the institution as a whole or by a program(s) within the institution.
- c. Simultaneous Accreditation and Certification. An institution may be both accredited and certified. The expiration dates for any accreditation status or any certification status may be the same or may be different. An institution must earn accreditation and certification separately and may maintain or lose either accreditation or certification without automatically jeopardizing the status of the other. Accordingly, any AdvancED actions to drop accreditation or certification must be applied to each status separately.
- d. Accreditation is not a requirement for certification. An institution may earn and maintain certification without any intent to pursue accreditation.

2.02 Term of Accreditation or Certification. The term of accreditation and/or certification is five years as long as the institution or system continues to satisfy the following:

- a. General Requirements of Policy 2.03.
- b. Accreditation Requirements of Policy 2.04 for institutions or systems seeking to achieve and maintain accreditation.
- c. Certification Requirements of Policy 2.05 for institutions seeking to achieve and maintain certification.
- d. Additional Requirements of Policy 2.06 for institutions and systems.

2.03 General Requirements. In order to achieve and maintain AdvancED accreditation or certification, an institution or system must:

- a. Maintain membership in the AdvancED Improvement Network (AIN).
- b. Adhere to AdvancED policies, Standards, and Assurances for accreditation and/or certification.
- c. Submit all required reports and demographic updates within prescribed timeframes.
- d. Pay all required fees within prescribed timeframes.

2.04 Accreditation Requirements. In addition to the general requirements, and in order to achieve and maintain accreditation, an institution or system must:

- a. Notify AdvancED of its intent to pursue accreditation by submitting an application or by written notification if already an AIN member.
- b. Meet the appropriate set of accreditation Standards and Assurances.
- c. Authentically engage in continuous improvement to achieve results.
- d. If not yet accredited at any status, host a Readiness Review by AdvancED.
 - i. If AdvancED determines the institution or system does not possess the capacity to meet the policies, Standards and Assurances required to achieve accreditation, the

- institution or system will remain a member of AIN and must host another Readiness Review in order to pursue accreditation.
- ii. If AdvancED determines the institution or system has the capacity to meet policies, Standards and Assurances required to achieve accreditation, the institution or system will be conferred with the status of candidate.
 - e. Host an Engagement Review within a timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office after achieving the status of candidate and at least once every five years thereafter.
 - f. Between twelve months and four weeks prior to a scheduled Engagement Review, submit to AdvancED documentation to support the Engagement Review.
 - g. Submit a progress report(s) on Improvement Priorities as identified by the Engagement Review Team within timeframes as defined by the institution's or system's accreditation status and/or as prescribed by the AdvancED Accreditation Office.

2.05 Certification Requirements. In order to achieve and maintain certification, an institution must meet the following criteria in addition to the general requirements listed in 2.04:

- a. Notify AdvancED of its intent to pursue certification by submitting an application or by written notification if already an AIN member.
- b. Meet the appropriate set of certification Standards and Assurances.
- c. If desired, host an optional pre-visit(s) to the institution by AdvancED.
- d. Host a certification review within a timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office and at least once every five years thereafter.

2.06 Additional Requirements. In addition to satisfying the conditions outlined in 2.02, an institution or system must adhere to the following:

- a. **Compliance with Applicable Governmental Requirements.** The institution or system must comply with all applicable governmental requirements, including any requirements for governmental approval, recognition, or accreditation. An institution's or system's loss of its governmental approval, recognition, accreditation, or certification may be grounds for an accreditation review, monitoring review, or certification review that may result in a change in accreditation or certification status in accordance with the procedures outlined in this document.
- b. **Non-discriminatory Admission of Students.** Institutions and systems accredited or certified through AdvancED shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national or ethnic origin, age, or disabilities or act unlawfully in the administration of their educational policies, scholarship, admission, and loan programs.
- c. **Records Retention.** Institutions and systems are required to maintain and implement a records retention system that meets applicable government requirements for all operating, financial, personnel, and student records. The records retention system applies to paper and electronic records, includes appropriate back-up systems, and details consistent processes for records destruction.
 - i. Institutions and systems must have written procedures for the ongoing access and maintenance of all relevant records in the event the institution or system ceases operation.

- ii. The institution or system must document to AdvancED via the process for Substantive Change the location of where the records will be housed and contact information for that location.
- d. **Institutional Integrity and Due Process.** An institution or system is required to represent itself accurately in all aspects of the accreditation process and/or certification process. If an institution or system misrepresents itself, including but not limited to the following: misrepresentation of its accreditation or certification status to the public; has any condition that may be detrimental to the students and/or clientele of the institution or system; or falsely reports its compliance with the policies and Standards for accreditation and/or certification; the institution's or system's accreditation and/or certification may be dropped. If an institution's or system's accreditation and/or certification is recommended to be dropped, the institution or system shall be afforded due process in consideration of such action.
- e. **Substantive Change.** An institution and system must report to AdvancED within sixty (60) days of occurrence any substantive change in the institution and system, which changes the scope and/or has an impact on the institution's or system's ability to meet the AdvancED Standards and policies. The report of a substantive change must describe the change itself as well as detail the impact of the change on the quality of education in the institution or system. Substantive change areas include, but are not limited to, the following:
- i. Cease of operation/closure of the institution or system. Include the location of where student records will be housed and the contact information for that location.
 - ii. Change in physical location of the institution or system.
 - iii. Consolidation or reorganization of the institution.
 - iv. Change in mission and purpose of the institution.
 - v. Governance structure of the institution or system, including changing to a charter school or charter school system, being the subject of a governmental takeover, or a change in ownership.
 - vi. Grade levels served by the institution or system.
 - vii. Staffing, including administrative and other non-teaching professional personnel.
 - viii. Available facilities, including upkeep and maintenance.
 - ix. Level of funding.
 - x. School day or school year.
 - xi. Establishment of an additional location geographically apart from the main campus.
 - xii. Student population that causes program or staffing modification(s).
 - xiii. Available programs, including fine arts, practical arts and student activities.

Institution or system failure to submit a substantive change may result in changes to the institution's or system's accreditation and/or certification status or loss of accreditation and/or certification.

- f. **Credits or Grade Placement.** The institution must maintain written policy and procedures for credits and grade placement and should be designed to ensure proper academic placement of the student.

- i. The institution shall accept and classify transfer credits earned or grade placement from institutions that are accredited by a recognized national, regional,¹ or state accrediting agency without further validation based on the school's policies and procedures governing such offerings.
- ii. The institution may accept credits or grade placement from non-accredited institutions when validated by one or more of the following procedures: a review of the student's academic record, an analysis of a sending institution's curriculum, a review of a portfolio of student work, or through an assessment of scholastic performance. The receiving institution must maintain policies and procedures to govern the acceptance of credit or grade placement from non-accredited sources.
- iii. The institution should provide prompt and accurate transcript services for students entering or leaving the institution in accordance with local policy.

¹ Recognized regional accrediting agencies include the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA CESS), and New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

2.07 AdvancED Responsibilities. AdvancED is responsible for supporting and monitoring institution and system adherence to the AdvancED Standards and policies, conducting an Engagement Review to every accredited school or system at least once every five years; conducting a Certification Review to every institution holding a certification at least once every five years; reviewing all institution and system reports; granting an accreditation or certification status for all institutions or systems; responding to complaints by and about institutions and systems; and maintaining accurate, complete, and timely records.

- a. **Codes of Conduct.** In performing the responsibilities outlined in 2.07, all agents of AdvancED shall adhere to the AdvancED Code of Ethics, AdvancED Conflict of Interest Policy, and AdvancED Confidentiality Statement, including Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Compliance and/or other governmental privacy regulations as applicable.
 - i. **Code of Ethics.** AdvancED Representatives agree to adhere to the AdvancED Code of Ethics. The code outlines the ethical behaviors that are essential to the proper performance of AdvancED duties and to the maintenance of confidence in our work by our institutions and systems, other clients, and the public.
 1. **Conflicts of Interest.** We conduct ourselves in a manner which seeks to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of a conflict of interest. We abide by the AdvancED Conflict of Interest Policy.
 2. **Impartiality.** We treat all institutions and systems that are or may seek AIN membership, accreditation, or certification services with impartiality and courtesy.

3. **Confidentiality and Privacy.** We treat information obtained through institutions' or systems' participation in the accreditation and/or certification process as confidential and shall not disclose such information except in a manner that is consistent with AdvancED policies, governmental regulation, or judicial procedure. We respect the privacy rights of all individuals in the performance of AdvancED duties.
4. **Transparency.** We are committed to providing timely, complete, and accurate information to the public and appropriate stakeholders. All information about the organization will fully and honestly reflect the policies and practices of AdvancED.
5. **Legal Compliance.** We are knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and requirements.
6. **Responsible Stewardship.** We manage the organization and its resources responsibly and prudently. We use organizational resources only for AdvancED purposes.
7. **Inclusiveness and Diversity.** We promote inclusiveness and seek diversity in officers, staff, board members, agents, contractors, and volunteers and the institutions, systems, and other clients we serve in order to enrich our effectiveness.

ii. **Conflict of Interest Policy.**

The AdvancED Conflict of Interest Policy is designed to ensure the highest level of ethical conduct of employees, volunteers, and agents of AdvancED (hereinafter referred to as "AdvancED Representatives" or "Representatives") and to avoid public perceptions and financial consequences detrimental to AdvancED that could arise from the misuse, or perception of misuse, of an individual's position or influence.

1. **Conduct.** AdvancED adheres to the highest legal and ethical standards applicable in our business. AdvancED's business is conducted in the strict observance of both the letter and spirit of all applicable laws and regulations, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the integrity of each AdvancED Representative is of utmost importance. Business dealings that appear to create conflicts of interest between AdvancED and an AdvancED Representative are unacceptable. A potential or actual conflict of interest occurs whenever an AdvancED Representative is in a position to influence a decision that may result in a personal gain for the AdvancED Representative or an immediate family member as a result of AdvancED's business dealings. AdvancED Representatives shall conduct themselves in a manner which seeks to avoid a conflict of interest or any appearance of a conflict of interest between their personal interests and interests of AdvancED.

2. **Full Disclosure.** AdvancED Representatives shall disclose to the Chief Accreditation Officer any possible conflict of interest, at the earliest possible time, in a written disclosure statement. The Chief Accreditation Officer is responsible for reviewing all submitted statements and making decisions concerning resolutions of conflicts.
3. **Conflicts of Interest.** An AdvancED Representative shall be considered to have a possible conflict of interest if such individual has an existing or potential financial or other interest which impairs or might appear to impair independent, unbiased judgment in discharging responsibilities on behalf of AdvancED.
 - a. Such interests may include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Any financial or other interests in institutions and systems that are AIN members or seeking AIN membership, accredited, seeking accreditation, and/or certified or seeking certification services through AdvancED;
 - ii. Employment or consulting arrangements with institutions or systems engaged in the accreditation or certification without prior disclosure to the Chief Accreditation Officer;
 - iii. Ownership of some or all of an institution or system;
 - iv. The holding of mortgages, liens, or other debt instruments or interest upon an institution or system engaged in the accreditation and/or certification;
 - v. Service as an officer or director of an institution or system that is engaged in the accreditation and/or certification; or
 - vi. The possession of any of the listed interests by a spouse, child, other relative or close friend.
 - b. While institutions and systems are specifically noted in the above examples (i-vi), conflict of interest may be with any clients, vendors, or matters of AdvancED operations where an AdvancED Representative is in a position to benefit, directly or indirectly, from his/her dealings with AdvancED.
 - c. If an AdvancED Representative is uncertain about whether a particular interest should be declared, the individual shall describe the interest in writing to the Chief Accreditation Officer who will issue a binding ruling as to whether the matter in question constitutes a reportable conflict of interest.
4. **Prohibited Actions.** In circumstances in which an AdvancED Representative has a possible conflict of interest, the Representative shall not:
 - a. Participate in financial or other agreements with any institutions or systems, clients, or vendors where a possible conflict of interest might exist;

certification reports, AdvancED shall promptly notify the institution or system and allow the institution or system a time to oppose such process.

- a. Nothing contained herein shall obligate AdvancED to oppose such process, and all cost incurred in opposing said process shall be the responsibility of the school/school system/education provider seeking protection.
4. Information shall not be deemed confidential or proprietary for purposes of this policy, if said information:
 - a. Is already known to AdvancED at the time of disclosure;
 - b. Is or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of AdvancED or its agents; or
 - c. Is disclosed by the actions of a non-restricted third party.
 5. Nothing contained herein shall interfere with the legal obligation of AdvancED to report instances of child abuse, sexual harassment, or discrimination or any other affirmative reporting requirements under any applicable laws and/or governmental regulations.
- b. **Gifts.** Members of Engagement Review Teams, Certification Review Teams, other review teams as conducted by AdvancED, and other agents of AdvancED who provide services to institutions and systems are prohibited from accepting gifts, other than branded logo items of minimal value, from institutions and systems.
 - c. **Investigations and Due Process.** In performing its duties, AdvancED may investigate an accredited institution or system or a certified institution on any matter related to possible violations of AdvancED Standards and Policies at any time. AdvancED shall use its judgment and discretion in determining if a complaint rises to a level justifying an investigation. Investigations will only be initiated when supported by substantial evidence and when they involve matters that could seriously hinder or disrupt the educational effectiveness of the institution and ability of the institution to meet the AdvancED Policies or Standards for accreditation or certification.

All investigations shall be conducted with proper attention to due process, and procedures shall be followed to protect the rights of all parties. The accreditation status of an accredited institution or system or the certification status of a certified institution may be changed as deemed appropriate through the investigative process; and timelines set forth in Policy III may not necessarily apply to special investigations and subsequent monitoring reviews. When warranted by a change of status recommendation, the results of an investigation shall be reported to the appropriate AdvancED Regional Commission and the AdvancED Global Commission.

- d. **Maintenance of and Public Access to Institution and System Records.** AdvancED maintains a record retention system that includes procedures for maintenance and access to institution and system records. AdvancED retains all institution and system final accreditation and certification reports and official correspondence for a 10-year period, documenting two full terms of accreditation or certification. AdvancED makes available

for public access the institution's and system's accreditation and certification status, institution's and system's term of accreditation and certification, and institution's and system's date of initial accreditation and certification. AdvancED reserves the right to make available for public access the institution's or system's Engagement Review Report, Certification Review Report, and any progress, special, or interim accreditation reports.

POLICY III: STATUSES FOR ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATION

3.01 Status. Accreditation or certification status is based on the performance of an institution or system in areas related to policies, Standards, and Assurances. No provisions in Policy III prevent an institution's or system's accreditation status from being changed upon a different timeline established due to the findings of a special investigation and/or possible subsequent monitoring reviews.

- a. **Accreditation Status.** Accreditation status is a designation provided by AdvancED that defines the institution's or system's standing relative to the results of an Engagement Review and/or due to the findings of a progress report(s), special review, and/or subsequent monitoring reviews.

There are three accreditation statuses that may be conferred on an institution or system. The accreditation status is based on the performance of an institution or system in areas related to the applicable set of accreditation Standards, policies, Assurances, student performance results, and stakeholder feedback.

- i. **Accredited.** A status conferred to an institution or system in good standing, and based on the most recent Engagement Review, meets all or a substantial number of Standards and criteria and has documented performance results and an Index of Education Quality® (IEQ®) score at acceptable levels.

The institution or system having a status of Accredited will continue with that status through the assigned expiration date of the five-year accreditation term as long as the institution or system continuously meets the policies, Standards, and Assurances for accreditation.

- ii. **Accredited Under Review.** A status conferred to an institution or system in fair standing; and based on the most recent Engagement Review, fails to meet a substantial number of Standards or criteria, and has an IEQ score in the bottom 5% of reviews administered in the school year and/or documented levels of poor/unsatisfactory performance results. Additionally, an institution or system may be conferred the status of Accredited Under Review based on the results of a special review or monitoring review wherein the institution or system fails to meet a substantial number of Standards or criteria, or is in noncompliance with policies and Assurances impacting the effective operations of the institution or system.

An institution or system having a status of Accredited Under Review will submit an annual progress report(s) to AdvancED on Improvement Priorities identified in the most recent review report, host an onsite

monitoring review within one year of the previous review, and host subsequent monitoring reviews as prescribed by AdvancED.

An institution or system having a status of Accredited Under Review will continue with that status until the institution or system successfully documents adequate progress in Improvement Priorities and/or by providing documented evidence of substantially meeting policies, Standards and Assurances for accreditation.

- iii. **Accredited Under Conditions.** A status is conferred to an institution or system in poor standing with the following conditions:
- a. Has held the status of Accredited Under Review for at least twelve (12) months and,
 - b. Has failed to demonstrate, with documented evidence, substantive progress in addressing the circumstances for which the institution was conferred the status of Accredited Under Review.

OR

- c. Has been found by an investigative team to no longer adhere to the accreditation Standards, policies and Assurances (refer to section 6.04); fails to cooperate with any Special Review Team investigation or request for information; and circumstances warrant such action.

Only an institution or system having a status of Accredited Under Conditions may be recommended for drop of accreditation.

- (a) **Intent to File Response.** Within thirty (30) calendar days of the AdvancED Global Commission's ratification of the institution's or system's status of Accredited Under Conditions, the institution or system must notify AdvancED in writing of its intent to file a written response that the institution or system should not have its accreditation dropped.
- (b) **Response.** Within sixty (60) calendar days of submitting the intent to file a written response, the institution or system must submit to AdvancED a written response that the institution or system should not have its accreditation dropped. The response must be substantiated by documented evidence(s) that address the circumstances for the institution having been conferred the status of Accredited Under Conditions. Additionally, a documented improvement plan, inclusive of strategies, timelines and dedicated resources targeted toward the identified circumstances must accompany the response.
- (c) **AdvancED Decision.** Within thirty (30) calendar days of AdvancED receiving the institution's or system's written response with substantiating evidence and improvement plan, AdvancED will notify the institution or system of AdvancED's decision to either:

- (1) Continue the institution's or system's status of Accredited Under Conditions not to exceed one year from the date of Commission ratification. AdvancED may extend the institution's or system's status of Accredited Under Conditions for one year at a time until the institution or system has successfully documented sufficient progress to warrant a change in status to Accredited Under Review.

OR

- (2) Proceed with procedures to drop the accreditation of the institution or system according to Policy 3.02b.

- b. **Certification Status.** Certification status is a designation provided by AdvancED that defines the standing of an institution relative to the results of a certification review, a special review, and/or subsequent monitoring reviews.

There are three certification statuses that may be conferred on an institution. The certification status is based on the performance of an institution in areas related to the applicable set of certification Standards, policies and Assurances.

- iv. **Certified.** A status conferred to an institution or system in good standing, and based on the most recent Certification Review, meets all or a substantial number of Standards.

The institution having a status of Certified will continue with that status through the assigned expiration date of the five-year certification term as long as the institution continuously meets the policies, Standards, and Assurances for certification.

- v. **Certified Under Review.** A status conferred to an institution in fair standing, and based on the most recent certification review, fails to meet a substantial number of Standards. Additionally, an institution may be conferred the status of Certified Under Review based on the results of a special review wherein the institution fails to meet a substantial number of Standards or is in noncompliance with policies and Assurances affecting the effective operations of the institution related to the certification areas.

An institution having a status of Certified Under Review must host an onsite monitoring review within one year of the certification review and subsequent monitoring reviews as prescribed by AdvancED.

An institution having a status of Certified Under Review will continue with that status until the institution substantially meets policies, Standards and Assurances for certification.

- vi. **Certified Under Conditions.** A status conferred to an institution in poor standing with the following conditions:

- a. Has held the status of Certified Under Review for at least twelve (12) months, and
- b. Has failed to host prescribed monitoring reviews or fails to progress in substantially meeting policies, Standards, and Assurances for certification.

OR

- c. Has been found by an investigative team to no longer adhere to the certification Standards, policies, and Assurances (refer to section 6.04); fails to cooperate with any Special Review Team investigation or request for information; and circumstances warrant such action.

Only an institution having a status of Certified Under Conditions may be recommended for drop of certification.

- (a) **Intent to File Response.** Within thirty (30) calendar days of the Commission’s ratification of the institution’s status of Certified Under Conditions, the institution must notify AdvancED in writing of its intent to file a written response that the institution should not have its certification dropped.
- (b) **Response.** Within sixty (60) calendar days of submitting the intent to file a written response, the institution must submit to AdvancED a written response that the institution should not have its certification dropped. The response must be substantiated by documented evidence(s) that address the circumstances for the institution having been conferred the status of Certified Under Review. Additionally, a documented improvement plan, inclusive of strategies, timelines and dedicated resources targeted toward the identified circumstances must accompany the rationale.
- (c) **AdvancED Decision.** Within thirty (30) calendar days of AdvancED receiving the institution’s written response with substantiating evidence and improvement plan, AdvancED will notify the institution or system of AdvancED’s decision to either:
 - (1) Continue the institution’s status of Certified Under Conditions not to exceed one year from the date of Commission ratification. AdvancED may extend the institution’s status of Certified Under Conditions for one year at a time until the institution has successfully documented sufficient progress to warrant a change in status to Certified Under Review, or
 - (2) Proceed with procedures to drop the certification of the institution or system according to Policy 3.02b.

3.02 Non-accredited or Non-certified Status. There are two non-accredited statuses that may be conferred on an institution or system, which are candidate for accreditation and dropped from accreditation, and one non-certified status that may be conferred on an institution

which is dropped from certification. Any AIN member institution or system that has not yet achieved any accreditation and/or certification status remains as an AIN member.

- a. **Candidate for Accreditation.** The AIN member institution or system becomes a candidate once it has hosted a Readiness Review. The Readiness Review Team and AdvancED Accreditation Office find that the institution or system has the capacity to meet the Standards, policies and Assurances required to earn accreditation, but the institution or system has not yet hosted the Engagement Review. The institution or system must host the Engagement Review within the timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office.
 - i. The institution or system may remain as an AIN member if it has hosted the Readiness Review and been found by the Readiness Review Team and the AdvancED Accreditation Office to not have the capacity to meet the Standards, policies, or Assurances to earn accreditation. In such a case, the institution or system will not be conferred the status of candidate.
 - ii. The institution or system must host another Readiness Review if again pursuing accreditation.

- b. **Dropped.** The institution or system will receive a dropped status if it:
 - Does not meet the Standards, policies and/or Assurances of the accreditation process or certification process; or
 - Finds it is no longer able to meet the AdvancED accreditation and/or certification Standards, policies and/or Assurances and notifies the respective AdvancED Accreditation Office that it wishes to have its accredited status or certification status dropped; or
 - Has been Accredited Under Conditions and/or Certified Under Conditions and fails to make substantial progress within the timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office on the circumstances for the institution having been conferred the status of Accredited Under Review and/or Certified Under Review; or
 - Fails to pay AIN and other fees related to accreditation and/or certification within prescribed timelines.
 - i. The dropped status is effective on the date set by the AdvancED Global Commission.
 - a. An institution or system that has been dropped from accreditation or certification must remove all references to its accredited or certification status from institution and/or system diplomas, certificates, websites, buildings, literature, and any other public facing documents or media.
 - b. A dropped institution or system may seek reinstatement for accreditation or certification within one year of receiving the dropped status. After one year, the dropped institution or system must reapply and follow the same procedures as new institutions or systems.

- c. **Future or Expected Status.** An institution or system that does not hold a current status of accreditation and/or certification may not project future or expected

accreditation or certification status. All candidate institutions or systems are not accredited or certified until such status is officially granted by the appropriate AdvancED Regional Commission and ratified by the AdvancED Global Commission. In any public announcements regarding the institution's or system's pursuit of accreditation or certification, the institution or system must avoid any implication that the AIN membership or candidate status equates with accreditation or certification or automatically leads to accreditation or certification. AdvancED's Global Commission shall have full authority and discretion to deny accreditation or certification status to any institution or system determined by AdvancED to be in violation of this policy.

- d. **Ongoing Monitoring.** The status of an institution or system is regularly monitored by AdvancED's Accreditation Offices and may be changed by the appropriate AdvancED Regional Commission and ratified by the AdvancED Global Commission based on new or corrected information provided by the institution or system, Engagement Review Team Reports, Certification Review Team Reports, reports from special reviews, complaints submitted, or other sources.

3.03 Reinstatement. Institutions or systems may request reinstatement of their accreditation and/or certification status in accordance with the following conditions and steps for reinstatement:

- a. Within twelve (12) months of the AdvancED Global Commission action to drop accreditation and/or certification status, AdvancED receives the institution's or system's request for reinstatement of accreditation and/or certification status. The institution may request/access the AdvancED Request for Reinstatement form from the AdvancED Accreditation Office.
- b. The institution or system completes the Request for Reinstatement form and submits the form, the AIN fee for the current school year, and the reinstatement fee to the AdvancED Finance Department at the address located on the reinstatement form.
- c. Within fifteen calendar (15) days of receiving the Request for Reinstatement form, AIN fee, and reinstatement fee, the AdvancED Accreditation Office contacts the institution or system to confirm receipt of the reinstatement request form and fees and to request that:
 - i. Within thirty (30) calendar days, the institution or system must submit to the AdvancED Accreditation Office a written rationale for the institution or system to be reinstated to its accreditation and/or certification status at the time of being dropped. If the institution or system has been dropped for cause, the rationale must be substantiated by documented evidence(s) that address progress toward the circumstances for the institution having been conferred the status of Accredited Under Conditions and/or Certified Under Conditions. Additionally, a documented improvement plan, inclusive of strategies, timelines and dedicated resources targeted toward the identified circumstances must accompany the rationale.
 - ii. Within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the written rationale with substantiating documentation and improvement plan from the institution or system, the

AdvancED Accreditation Office forwards the Request for Reinstatement form, the rationale for reinstatement with its substantiating evidence and improvement plan, accreditation and/or certification actions or recommendations for review, and action to the appropriate AdvancED Regional Commission with final ratification by the AdvancED Global Commission at the next scheduled AdvancED Regional and Global Commission meetings.

- d. Upon AdvancED Regional Commission action and AdvancED Global Commission ratification to reinstate the institution's or system's accreditation and/or certification status, the institution or system is reinstated with an expiration date not to exceed one year from the date of Commission ratification. AdvancED may extend the institution's or system's status of Accreditation Under Conditions or Certification Under Conditions for one year at a time until the institution or system has successfully documented sufficient progress to warrant a change in status to Accredited Under Review or higher or Certified Under Review or higher.
- e. Upon the institution or system being reinstated to the status of accredited and/or certified, the institution or system is reinstated to the original accreditation term and/or certification term. The institution or system must satisfy all requirements of the accreditation and/or certification term in which it is being reinstated.
- f. An institution or system that dropped in its fifth year of the accreditation or certification term and reinstates must host an Engagement Review for accreditation and/or a certification review for certification upon reinstatement.

POLICY IV: PROCEDURES FOR INITIAL ACCREDITATION AND/OR CERTIFICATION

4.01 Overview. Institutions or systems seeking initial accreditation must demonstrate that they meet the AdvancED Standards, policies, and Assurances for accreditation and/or certification, have the capacity to support institution or system improvement and are committed to growth in student learning and organizational effectiveness.

4.02 General Guidelines. Following are general guidelines for all institutions or systems seeking initial accreditation or certification: An institution or system must:

- a. Demonstrate financial stability before it may be accredited or, in the case of an institution, certified.
- b. Certify that it possesses the appropriate licenses to operate if licensing is required by any governmental authority applicable to the institution or system.
- c. For accreditation, host a Readiness Review within the timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office.
- d. For accreditation, host an Engagement Review after becoming a candidate for accreditation within the timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office.

- e. For certification, an institution must host a Certification Review within the timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office.

4.03 Application for Accreditation and/or Certification and Review Fees. The institution or system must complete and submit all required application materials.

The review fees for accreditation and/or certification are in the same amount and are calculated using the same formula. If an institution is applying simultaneously for both accreditation and certification, only one review fee is applied.

4.04 For Accreditation – Readiness Review and Candidacy Status. Upon receipt of completed application materials and fees, the appropriate AdvancED Accreditation Office coordinates a Readiness Review with the institution or system seeking accreditation. The purpose of the review is to:

- a. Determine if the institution or system has the capacity and integrity to meet and adhere to the AdvancED Standards, policies, and Assurances.
- b. Determine if the institution or system has the capacity to support continuous improvement.
- c. Make a determination if the institution or system should become a candidate for accreditation or remain as an AIN member.

Upon achievement of candidate status, the institution or system authentically engages in the accreditation process and continuous improvement, submits any required documents, and prepares for its first Engagement Review. In the case of systems, all institutions within the system also authentically engage in the accreditation process and continuous improvement, submit required documents, and participate in the preparations for the system Engagement Review, including participating in school reviews, as may be required.

4.05 For Accreditation – Engagement Review and Accreditation Recommendation. The candidate institution or system hosts an Engagement Review within the timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office. The Engagement Review Team makes an accreditation recommendation that is reviewed, along with other documentation, by the AdvancED Accreditation Office, the AdvancED Regional Commission which grants the final accreditation status, and the AdvancED Global Commission which reviews and ratifies the final accreditation actions.

4.06 For Accreditation – Remaining in Candidacy Status. If accreditation is not conferred on the institution or system after hosting its initial Engagement Review, the institution or system remains as a candidate for accreditation. To achieve accreditation, the institution or system must:

- a. Meet the requirements specified in the Engagement Review Report.

- b. Host a follow-up onsite Engagement Review within the timeframe established by the Accreditation Office to address, at a minimum, the requirements specified in the Engagement Review Report.
- c. Provide documentation to the Engagement Review Team that addresses the requirements specified in the Engagement Review Report.

The Engagement Review Team makes an accreditation recommendation that is reviewed, along with the submitted documentation, by the Accreditation Office, the AdvancED Regional Commission, which grants the final accreditation status, and the AdvancED Global Commission which reviews and ratifies the final accreditation actions.

If the institution or system fails to meet the requirements specified in the Engagement Review Report, its candidacy status will be removed. The institution or system may remain an AIN member and must inform AdvancED if it wishes to continue to seek accreditation.

4.07 For Certification – Certification Review and Certification Recommendation. The AIN member institution must host a Certification Review within the timeframe established by the AdvancED Accreditation Office. The Certification Review Team makes a certification recommendation that is reviewed, along with other documentation, by the Accreditation Office, the AdvancED Regional Commission which grants the certification status, and the AdvancED Global Commission which reviews and ratifies the final certification actions.

- a. If certification is not conferred, the institution may remain an AIN member and must inform AdvancED if it wishes to continue to seek certification.

4.08 For Accreditation – Institutions from a System that is System Accredited. Institutions applying for initial accreditation that are part of systems that are system accredited use the following procedures:

- a. The institution (school) completes and submits an application for accreditation.
- b. The system verifies that the institution meets AdvancED Accreditation Standards, policies, and Assurances and is actively engaged in the system’s process for quality Assurance.
- c. Upon receiving the system’s verification, the AdvancED Accreditation Office makes an accreditation recommendation that is submitted for action to the appropriate AdvancED Regional Commission for the relevant jurisdiction with ratification by the AdvancED Global Commission.
- d. Upon earning accredited status, the institution engages in the system’s approved plan for accreditation.
- e. If the institution is not recommended for accreditation, the system must submit a plan for how it will address any noted deficiencies to ensure the institution is ready for accreditation within a year.

- 4.09 Continuing Accreditation or Certification.** Upon achieving an accreditation status or certification status, the institution or system engages in continuous improvement and meets and adheres to the AdvancED Standards, policies, and Assurances required of all institutions or systems to maintain their accreditation status, and in the case of institutions, their certification status.

POLICY V: PROCEDURES FOR CONSOLIDATED, REORGANIZED, AND OTHER SCHOOLS

- 5.01 Consolidated Institutions.** With the concurrence of the AdvancED Regional Commission, a consolidated school may retain continuing accreditation provided that at least one of the institutions involved in the consolidation is accredited by AdvancED at the time of the consolidation. There must be no break in accreditation. The institution must submit written notification of consolidation to the appropriate AdvancED Accreditation Office. The AdvancED Accreditation Office will review the notification with the appropriate AdvancED Regional Commission for concurrence and submit appropriate forms/notification to the appropriate AdvancED Office.
- 5.02 Reorganized Institutions.** A new institution(s) formed by reorganization of an accredited school may retain continuing accreditation with the concurrence of the appropriate AdvancED Regional Commission. The reorganized institution must submit written notification of its reorganization to the appropriate AdvancED Accreditation Office. The AdvancED Accreditation Office will review the notification with the AdvancED Regional Commission and determine whether the reorganized school may continue its accreditation or be required to apply as a new institution and follow the new institution procedures.
- 5.03. Extension or Branch Campuses.** An extension or branch campus of an institution can be accredited as part of the main campus provided all of the following conditions are met:
- a. The extension or branch campus is under the direct supervision of the administrative head of the main campus institution.
 - b. The director or supervisor of the extension or branch campus reports directly to the administrative head of the main campus institution.
 - c. The extension or branch campus only serves students who are enrolled in the main campus institution.
 - d. The extension or branch campus provides a program of services that are a part of the total educational program of the main campus, and it does not duplicate services or programs.
 - e. The extension or branch campus operates under the same identification number (or identifier) as the main campus as provided by the regulating governmental authority. If this requirement is met, but is in opposition to any of the other provisions in Policy 5.03, the extension or branch campus may be accredited as part of the main campus institution.

- 5.04. Schools within a School.** Schools within a school are treated as separate schools and are required to comply with all AdvancED accreditation requirements if the state education agency has provided them with distinct school numbers. If the schools share the same state-provided school number, they may be treated as one school by AdvancED.

POLICY VI: PROCEDURES REGARDING COMPLAINTS BY AND ABOUT ACCREDITED AND/OR CERTIFIED INSTITUTIONS OR SYSTEMS

- 6.01 Written complaint.** Any complaints submitted by and about institutions or systems must be submitted in writing, both paper or electronic notices are acceptable. All complaints should include the following information to allow for proper review and if determined, in the sole discretion of AdvancED, appropriate investigation:

- a. The name, address, phone number and other pertinent contact information of the complainant.
- b. A description of the circumstances or events and any relevant documentation that support the complaint.
- c. A statement of relationship with the individual involved, if the complainant is not the aggrieved individual. Complaints concerning individual students will only be investigated or sent to the school if the complaint is made or authorized by a student of majority age or by an individual that has the legal authority and right to represent the student.
- d. The name, address and other contact information for the individual at the school/school system that has been contacted by the complainant to resolve the problem or situation.
- e. Permission for representatives of AdvancED to access pertinent records concerning the complainant if such records are not available to the public.
- f. A statement of first-hand knowledge of the substance of the complaint, unless the complaint is supported by reliable documentation which is referenced in the complaint.

- 6.02. Complaints Regarding Conflicts of Interest.** Any complaint that identifies a potential conflict of interest shall be filed with the Chief Accreditation Officer of AdvancED. Any complaints submitted regarding potential conflicts of interest must be submitted in writing, both paper or electronic notices are acceptable. All complaints should include the following information to allow for proper review and if determined, in the sole discretion of AdvancED, appropriate investigation:

- a. The name, address, phone number, and other pertinent contact information of the complainant.
- b. A description of the circumstances or events and any relevant documentation that support the complaint.
- c. A statement of relationship with the individual involved, if the complainant is not the aggrieved individual.

6.03. Complaints Regarding Child Abuse, Sexual Harassment or Discrimination. Any complaint that identifies potential child abuse, sexual harassment or discrimination on the part of a student or staff member, shall be forwarded immediately to the appropriate agency authorized to investigate such complaints. Unsigned complaints concerning potential child abuse, sexual harassment, or discrimination will be forwarded to the principal and the superintendent or other similar official in the institution's or system's organization. Findings by the appropriate agency may result in action by AdvancED's Global Commission.

6.04 Individual Grievances. Isolated and individual grievances between an institution or system and person are not investigated by AdvancED. AdvancED will acknowledge to the person filing the complaint, in writing, the receipt of the complaint.

- a. AdvancED Accreditation Office will contact the complainant to review the requirements of Policy 6.01 if the complaint received by AdvancED does not meet such requirements and to inform the complainant that the substance of the complaint will be shared with the institution or system according to 6.03(b). This contact may be made by AdvancED through written, email and/or telephone conversation. This contact affords the complainant the opportunity to append additional information as necessary and proceed with the complaint to AdvancED or to withdraw a submitted complaint. Under no circumstances will AdvancED encourage the complainant to withdraw a complaint. Rather, this is to transparently communicate AdvancED procedures to the complainant.
- b. AdvancED will notify the institution or system of each complaint that is of an individual grievance. AdvancED reserves the right to:
 - i. Share with the institution or system the substance of the complaint, or
 - ii. Notify the institution or system according to the requirements of Policy 6.03(c).
- c. The AdvancED notification to the institution or system may request the institution or system to:
 - i. Within 30 days, respond in writing to AdvancED communicating its handling of the complaint, or
 - ii. Address the complaint according to the institution's own policy and procedure for managing complaints but that no written response is required to AdvancED.
 - iii. A copy of the complaint and the institution's or system's response to the complaint, if required, will be maintained by the appropriate AdvancED Accreditation Office.
- d. If several individual complaints against a school suggest a particular violation or pattern of violations which might affect the institution's or system's ability to meet AdvancED Standards, policies or Assurances, further investigation may be authorized and shall occur within a reasonable period of time.

6.05 Investigation of Complaints. AdvancED will pursue complaints that are determined by AdvancED to sufficiently identify potential violations of AdvancED Standards, policies or Assurances. AdvancED will notify the institution or system in writing of each complaint and will request the institution or system to:

- a. Within 30 days, respond in writing to AdvancED communicating its handling of the complaint.
- b. If AdvancED determines that an institution's or system's response to a complaint does not sufficiently address the complaint or if an institution or system fails to address the complaint in a timely manner, the information about the complaint will be shared with
 - i. The Engagement Review Team scheduled for the next review of the institution or system if an Engagement Review is scheduled during the current year, or
 - ii. Representatives of a Special Review Team being sent to the institution or system to conduct a special review to investigate the complaint. The Special Review Team is charged with
 - a. Investigating said complaint, as well as, investigating the possible violation of any other AdvancED Standards, policies, or Assurances that may be discovered through a diligent and thorough investigation, and
 - b. Recommending an Accreditation or Certification status of the institution or system.
- c. The findings from an investigation of a complaint may result in changes to an institution's or system's accreditation or certification status.
- d. The AdvancED Regional Commissions and the AdvancED Global Commission do not have civil authority to impose any order of settlement on an institution or system or its representatives. Complainants seeking a settlement, payment, or compensation should pursue their concern through the channels offered by a State Department of Education or other legal or governmental authority having jurisdiction over the subject matter.

POLICY VII: APPEAL PROCEDURES

- 7.01 Right to Appeal.** An institution or system has the right to appeal a decision made to place the institution or system on any of the listed statuses:
- i. Accredited Under Conditions
 - ii. Drop of Accreditation
 - iii. Certified Under Conditions
 - iv. Drop of Certification

An accredited or certified institution or system remains accredited or certified until the final disposition of the appeal. The accreditation or certification status of the institution or system does not change until all rights of appeal pursuant to the Policy are exhausted. The appellate process shall be carried out in a timely and expeditious manner to ensure protection of the public interest as well as the institution.

- 7.02 Adverse Decision.** When an institution or system has been conferred any of the listed statuses:
- i. Accredited Under Conditions
 - ii. Drop of Accreditation
 - iii. Certified Under Conditions
 - iv. Drop of Certification

- a. Within fourteen (14) calendar days after the adverse decision is ratified by the AdvancED Global Commission, AdvancED shall notify the institution or system in writing, delivered by overnight service or Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.
- b. The written notification shall specify the Standards, policies, and/or Assurances not met. A copy of this Policy shall be provided to the institution or system along with the notice of the adverse decision.
- c. After the AdvancED Regional Commission vote for an adverse decision and following ratification by the AdvancED Global Commission, if no notice of intent to appeal is filed as provided in Section 7.04 , the decision becomes final.

7.03 Grounds for Appeal. The grounds on which an appeal may be taken are:

- a. Departure by the AdvancED Global Commission from the procedures established by written policy, or agreement, or by recognized custom which is of such significance as to affect materially the adverse decision;
- b. The citing by the AdvancED Global Commission of factually incorrect information as basis for its decision which is of such significance as to affect materially the Commission's adverse action;
- c. Bias, as evidenced by a demonstrable intent on the part of evaluators, the AdvancED Global Commission, or the AdvancED Global Commission's professional staff to prejudice the evaluation or other review of the institution's status of accreditation, such bias being of such significance as to affect materially the AdvancED Global Commission's adverse accrediting action; or
- d. The adverse action is arbitrary and capricious.

7.04 Appeal Procedures. An institution or system wishing to appeal shall do so in accordance with the procedures set forth as follows:

- a. Within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the written notice of the decision for adverse action, the institution or system shall file its intent to appeal the decision to place the institution or system on any of the listed statuses:
 - i. Accredited Under Conditions
 - ii. Drop of Accreditation
 - iii. Certified Under Conditions
 - iv. Drop of Certification

See Section 7.03 for grounds for an appeal.

- b. A notice of an intent to appeal shall be filed only with the prior authorization of the governing authority of the institution or system and documentation or evidence of such authorization shall be included in the notice of intent to appeal.

- c. The notice of intent to appeal shall be submitted via overnight service or Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the Chief Accreditation Officer of AdvancED.
- d. The notice of intent to appeal shall contain a statement of the ground(s) on which the appeal will be made but need not provide evidence in support of the appeal.
 - i. The institution or system shall submit to the Chief Accreditation Officer of AdvancED a bond for costs of the appeal in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) that accompanies the notice of intent to appeal.
 - ii. After the costs of the appeal have been deducted from the amount of the bond, any unused portion of the bond shall be returned to the institution or system.
 - iii. If the costs of the appeal exceed the amount of the bond, the institution or system shall pay the additional costs to AdvancED.
- e. Within twenty (20) calendar days of filing notice of intent to appeal, the institution's or system's written appeal shall be submitted in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the AdvancED Chief Accreditation Officer.
 - i. The institution's or system's written appeal shall set forth its argument and supporting evidence as the basis for its appeal. Only evidence previously submitted to AdvancED may be included in the submission. New evidence will not be considered.
 - ii. At the time of filing the written appeal, the institution or system shall advise the Chief Accreditation Officer it will present oral arguments at the appeals hearing and, if so, with or without legal counsel. In the event the school/school system elects not to send representatives to the appeals hearing, then AdvancED shall likewise not send representatives to the hearing, and the Appeals Panel will be authorized to decide the appeal based solely on the written submissions of the parties.
 - iii. If the institution or system has good cause to believe that any member of the Commission's standing appeals body should not hear the institution's or system's appeal, it shall notify the Chief Accreditation Officer in writing of the basis for its objection at the time it submits its written appeal. See Policy 7.04(e).
 - iv. Objections to the composition of the Panel shall be heard and ruled upon by the Chair of the AdvancED Global Commission in consultation with the Chief Accreditation Officer.
- f. Within thirty (30) calendar days following receipt of the written appeal, AdvancED shall submit its written response to the Chief Accreditation Officer with a copy to the institution or system.
- g. A Panel of three impartial evaluators shall be selected by the AdvancED Chief Accreditation Officer, and confirmed by the AdvancED Global Commission, to hear the institution's or system's appeal. The Panel shall be selected from a standing appeals

body appointed by the AdvancED Global Commission to serve for staggered three-year terms.

- i. The standing appeals body shall be comprised of educators who are knowledgeable about accreditation and certification requirements but do not hold any other appointed, paid, or elected position with AdvancED.

The Chief Accreditation Officer will promptly notify the institution or system of the names of the members of the Appeals Panel and the date and place of the hearing.

The Chief Accreditation Officer will transmit a copy of the institution's or system's appeal documents and AdvancED's written response to each member of the Appeals Panel in advance of the hearing.

- h. Within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt of the institution's or system's written appeal, the Appeals Panel will hold the hearing.
 - i. The institution or system shall not have the right to cross-examine individual agents of AdvancED staff. Additionally, AdvancED staff shall not have the right to cross-examine representatives of the institution or system. The appeals hearing is not a court proceeding and is not intended to be adversarial. It is the role of the Appeals Panel to consider the merits of each party's arguments along with supporting evidence when making its determination.
 - ii. AdvancED may request that its legal counsel be present to advise the panel members on matters relating to the Policy.
 - iii. The institution or system may request that the appeal hearing be transcribed. No audio-taping or video-taping of the appeal is permitted.
 - iv. Evidence in support of the appeal shall be limited to that evidence presented to AdvancED prior to making its adverse accrediting action except as hereinafter provided. The Appeals Panel shall consider evidence bearing only upon the grounds specified for the appeal. Additional written materials or evidence not presented to AdvancED at the time of its original decision as a part of its review (or of its decision following a remand as provided in 7.04(l)ii. may not be presented to the Appeals Panel.
 - v. Other than at the appeals hearing, the Appeals Panel shall not meet with representatives of either the institution or system or AdvancED.
- i. The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be determined by majority vote. The Appeals Panel shall meet in executive session to reach its decision following the close of hearing. Appeals hearings shall not be conducted as a judicial proceeding. Rules of evidence, pre-hearing discovery, the right to subpoena witnesses, and the right to cross examine witnesses shall not be permitted, provided however, members of the Appeals Panel may ask questions of the institution or system and AdvancED's representatives present at a hearing.
- j. The institution or system appealing an adverse accrediting action shall bear the burden of proof and may be represented by legal counsel at the hearing to present or assist in the presentation of the institution's or system's appeal. AdvancED may elect to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing in the event the institution or system is represented by counsel.

- k. The chairperson of the Appeals Panel may limit the presentations of the institution or system and AdvancED to one half hour each, provided however, the time for presentations and questioning may be extended to either or both parties as determined in the sole discretion of the chairperson.
 - i. The order of presentation shall be first, the institution or system and second, AdvancED.
 - ii. Within the sole discretion of the chairperson as to time and scope, the Appeals Panel may permit the institution or system to present final comments and/or arguments following AdvancED's presentation.
 - iii. Nothing herein shall be deemed to require either the institution or system or AdvancED to make any oral presentation at the Appeals Panel hearing and the failure to do so shall have no bearing or relevance in reaching a decision by the Appeals Panel.

- l. The Appeals Panel decision shall include the Panel's ruling together with the reasons therefore as well as any additional information deemed pertinent by the Panel and shall be the only written decision of the Panel.
 - i. Within ten (10) calendar days of the close of the hearing, the Appeals Panel decision shall be filed by the Appeals Panel with the Chief Accreditation Officer.
 - ii. The Appeals Panel shall have the authority to affirm, reverse or remand the Adverse Action and will direct the Commission to implement the decision in a manner consistent with the Appeals Panel's decisions or instructions. In a decision to remand the adverse action to the Commission for further consideration, the Appeals Panel must identify specific issues that the Commission must address.
 - iii. Within seven (7) calendar days of filing its decision with the Chief Accreditation Officer, the Appeals Panel shall inform the institution or system and the AdvancED Global Commission of its decision.

- m. All expenses of the appeal, including all expenses of the members of the Appeals Panel, are to be borne fully by the institution or system submitting the appeal.

- n. The Appeals Panel can either, affirm, reverse or remand the decision to the AdvancED Global Commission for reconsideration. If the Appeals Panel,
 - i. Affirms the decision of the AdvancED Global Commission, the action is final.
 - ii. Reverses the decision of the AdvancED Global Commission, the action is final.
 - iii. Remands the decision to the AdvancED Global Commission for further consideration and the Commission adheres to its original decision, the matter shall be considered final.



AdvancED | Measured Progress First to Launch Early Learning STEM Certification

First STEM Certification for Early Learners makes high-quality STEM Education available to youngest students. Even very young children can be exposed to higher order thinking and vocabulary, hands-on learning and real-world problem solving.

Alpharetta, Ga. (April 1, 2019)—AdvancED | Measured Progress introduced a first-of-its-kind Early Learning STEM Certification for preschools and programs which demonstrate that they serve early learners with developmentally appropriate instructional practices that promote higher-level thinking and child brain development.

"Young children are naturally inclined to explore, observe, and discover new things each and every day. This is the perfect time to leverage their innate curiosity and support the development of scientific thinking," said Dr. Holly King, vice president of Early Learning Services, AdvancED | Measured Progress.

In the first known certification of its kind, AdvancED's Early Learning STEM Certification provides institutions and programs serving children from three weeks through five years of age a research-based framework and criteria from which to assess the quality, rigor, and substance of their early learning practices, including problem-based experiential learning and integrating components of STEM thinking into a broad range of activities and learning opportunities.

The AdvancED Early Learning STEM Certification framework, which draws from both best practices in early childhood education and AdvancED's existing STEM certification for K-12 schools, is centered on [12 standards](#) used to evaluate and determine the extent to which an early learning institution is providing a high quality early learning STEM education that includes: inclusive learning experiences, a culture of inquiry and collaboration, real-world activities, personalized and self-directed STEM learning activities and defined learning outcomes.

Early learning schools in South Carolina, Virginia, Texas and Massachusetts have become the first to earn AdvancED STEM[®] Certification. The certification "is a mark of distinction and excellence, rooted in research, that speaks to the quality, rigor, and substance of their STEM educational program," said Dr. King. "STEM is such a buzzword, even in early learning education, but high quality programs focus on building an age-appropriate culture of inquiry and exploration across a wide range of activities. You can't just slap 'STEM' on the door and think that you are offering a quality program."

The AdvancED Early Learning STEM Certification framework recognizes brain development research that shows that even very young children can be exposed to higher order thinking and vocabulary, hands-on learning, collaboration, inquiry, and real world problem solving—all skills critical for later success in math, science, and other STEM-related subjects. Through this certification protocol, institutions and programs build awareness, increase expectations and demonstrate a commitment and ability to deliver high-quality early learning STEM education. AdvancED Early Learning STEM Certified schools have demonstrated that their programs provide developmentally appropriate STEM learning experiences for all their young students.

To learning more about AdvancED Early Learning STEM Certification contact Dr. Holly King at hking@advanc-ed.org.

About AdvancED | Measured Progress

AdvancED | Measured Progress is a non-profit organization with a global reach that locally serves the needs of schools and their community. A leader in pre-K through grade 12 school improvement, accreditation, assessment services, and STEM Certifications, AdvancED | Measured Progress is dedicated to helping stakeholders make decisions and take actions to improve the quality of learning experiences for every learner. We conduct rigorous, external engagement reviews of schools, and provide balanced formative and large-scale summative assessments. A pioneer in authentic, standards-based assessments, the organization develops assessments for classrooms, districts, states, and collaboratives and is proud to be a leading provider of alternate assessments for students with cognitive difficulties. Membership in the AdvancED Improvement Network of more than 36,000 institutions worldwide affords access to tools and services to help institutions assess and improve the quality of learning on their journey of continuous improvement. For more information visit us [online](#).

Notes	Org Name	Contact Name	Contact E-mail	Contact Phone	Head of Institution Full Name	Head of Institution E-mail	Head of Institution Phone	Org Type	Org Address 1	Org City	St	Org Postal Code	Org Status	Accreditation Status	Accred Exp	Init Accred	Enrollment	Teacher FTE
	Bishop Kelley High School				Rev. frobrier			Hig	390	Tul	OK	741	Acc	Acc	##	##	860	
	Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School				Mr. pgiorgio			Hig	801	Okl	OK	731	Acc	Acc	##	##	703	54
	Cascia Hall Preparatory School	Mr. sga		918	Mr. rca		918	Col	252	Tul	OK	741	Acc	Acc	##	##	541	60
	Chickasaw Nation Early Learning				Robert.Pickens@chickasaw								Acc	Accredited			120	7
	Destiny Christian School	Mr. Jim		405	Mr. jim		405	Uni	380	Okl	OK	731	Acc	Acc	##	##	623	47
	Good Shepherd Catholic School at Mercy	Pal pfil		405	Pal pfil		405	Sch	134	Okl	OK	##	Acc	Acc	##	##	48	51
	Guthrie Job Corps Center	Mrs. Dc			Mrs. betchar			Hig	310	Gut	OK	730	Acc	Acc	##	##	287	10
	Lawton Academy of Arts and Sciences	Kay jkjo		580	Kay jkjo		580	Uni	191	Law	OK	735	Acc	Acc	##	##	185	13
	Mercy School Institute				Mrs. me		405	Uni	140	Edr	OK	730	Acc	Acc	##	##	270	40
	Metro Christian Academy	Mrs. nst		918	Mr. rge		918	Uni	636	Tul	OK	##	Acc	Acc	##	##	202	20
	Mission Academy	Ms. lgoi		405	And. aric		405	Hig	710	Okl	OK	731	Acc	Acc	##	##	12	
	Monte Cassino School	Mrs. bkl		918	Mr. ksmith			Ele	220	Tul	OK	741	Acc	Acc	##	##	760	71
	Mount St. Mary Catholic High School	Mrs. wfa		405	Mrs. tde		405	Col	280	Okl	OK	731	Acc	Acc	##	##	388	40
	Paths to Independence			918	Ms. pat		918	Uni	462	Bar	OK	740	Acc	Acc	##	##	56	5
	Peace Academy	Mr. prir		918	Mr. rac		918	Uni	462	Tul	OK	##	Acc	Acc	##	##	984	98
	Positive Tomorrows	Mrs. sagel@			Am. abr		405	Ele	PO	Okl	OK	731	Acc	Acc	##	##	74	6
	Primrose School of Edmond				Sha. stanner@primroseedmond.com										##	##	156	34
	Primrose School of NW Oklahoma City				Hel. hmorris@primroseswoklah								Acc	Acc	##	##	202	40
	Primrose School of SW Oklahoma City				And. choate@primrosenwoklah								Acc		##	##	167	28
	Primrose School of South Tulsa				Kell. km		918	Ear	101	Tul	OK	##	Acc	Acc	##	##	175	33
	Sequoyah Schools	Ms. joly		918	Ms. joly		918	Hig	PO	Tah	OK	##	Acc	Acc	##	##	393	30
	Special CARE, Inc.	Tan. tam		405	Par. par		405	Ear	122	Okl	OK	731	Acc	Acc	##	##	139	11
	Stonebridge Academy	Mr. wh		918	Mr. wh		918	Ele	209	Okl	OK	744	Acc	Acc	##	##	63	6
	Talking Leaves Job Corps Center	Mrs. hol			Mr. littl		918	Hig	PO	Tah	OK	##	Acc	Acc	##	##	154	16

FTE of All Employees	Number of HS Grads	Median Tuition	Total \$ of need based financial aid distributed	Total \$ of employee tuition remission	% of students receiving financial aid	Mean teacher salary (full-time K-12)	
							\$ 32,615.35
90	158	\$12,000	\$780,180	\$64,132	23%	\$52,399	
98	94	\$15,250	\$1,044,963	\$290,376	24%	\$48,056	\$46,056
23	na		na	na	na	\$41,129	
72	16		\$81,227	\$415,200	3%	\$26,333	\$26,333
66	66	\$25,500	\$296,791	0	63%	\$32,848	\$32,848
13	208	\$ -	0	0	0	\$42,000	\$42,000
15	2	\$5,000	\$50,000	\$15,000	25%	\$32,000	\$32,000
	7		\$52,729	\$21,370	9%	\$24,912	\$24,912
25	130	\$5,400	\$150,000	\$35,000	25%	\$38,000	\$38,185.14
136	na	\$ 11,400	\$146,500	\$338,500	4.7%	\$43,612	
54	94		146,082	61,750	21%	\$37,000	37,001
40	6	\$17,500	\$17,000	\$0	100%	\$42,986	
141	105	\$ 8,972	132,720	18,700	54%	\$30,000	30000
28	N/A	No charge	N/A	N/A	100%	\$38,000	\$35,032.62
38	38	\$13,468	0	0	0	\$0	0
40	40		NA	NA	NA	N/A	N/A
33	30	\$13,260	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$24,000	\$12/hour
38	38	\$14,400	\$64,800	\$64,800	4	None K-12	
98	89	\$ -	0	0	0%	\$45,569	\$45,569
51	NA	\$12,066	\$275,000	\$69,888	38%	\$35,059	\$35,059
8	NA	\$350	\$47,200	\$15,200	22%	\$30,000	\$30,000
93	104		0	0	0%	\$32,000	32,001

4	15	\$ 3,500	\$88,250	\$14,000	100%	\$28,000	\$28,000
7	5		0	0	0	\$42,058	\$42,058
35	0	\$10,455	\$144,500	\$70,470	17%	\$42,744	\$39,954
13.5	0		\$223			\$9,078	
82	34	\$7,529	\$432,000	\$118,000	30%	\$37,000	37000
334	18647		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1632	19886	\$6,190	\$1,972,035	\$1,323,230	19%	\$33,751	
	1239	<i>Average</i>			<i>Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	
4	0	\$8,000	\$60,000	0.00	100%	\$40,000	
11	0	\$100	\$0	0	99%	\$40,000	
31	0	\$839	\$6,511	0	100%	\$50,762	
2107	39806	\$22,658.00	\$2,470,769	\$1,441,230	100%	\$ 50,762	
2107	39806	\$6,190	\$1,972,035	\$1,323,230	19%	\$33,751	
		<i>Average</i>			<i>Average</i>	<i>Average</i>	
41.8	17	6925	14,634	74,375	3%	\$29,417	
	56	\$4,600	\$45,000	\$0	4.8%	\$34,000	

