

# District Accreditation 2011-12 Process

*Building and Recognizing  
Quality School Systems*



Tom Dolan, AdvancED Field Consultant

# Introductions

- Name / School/ District

AdvancED® is a global leader in advancing excellence in education through continuous improvement, organizational effectiveness, and accreditation.



# The AdvancED Community

## *World's Largest Educational Network*

- 27,000 public and private schools throughout the United States and 69 countries worldwide
- All Department of Defense schools
- 15 million students
- 18 thousand volunteers



• More than 3 million teachers

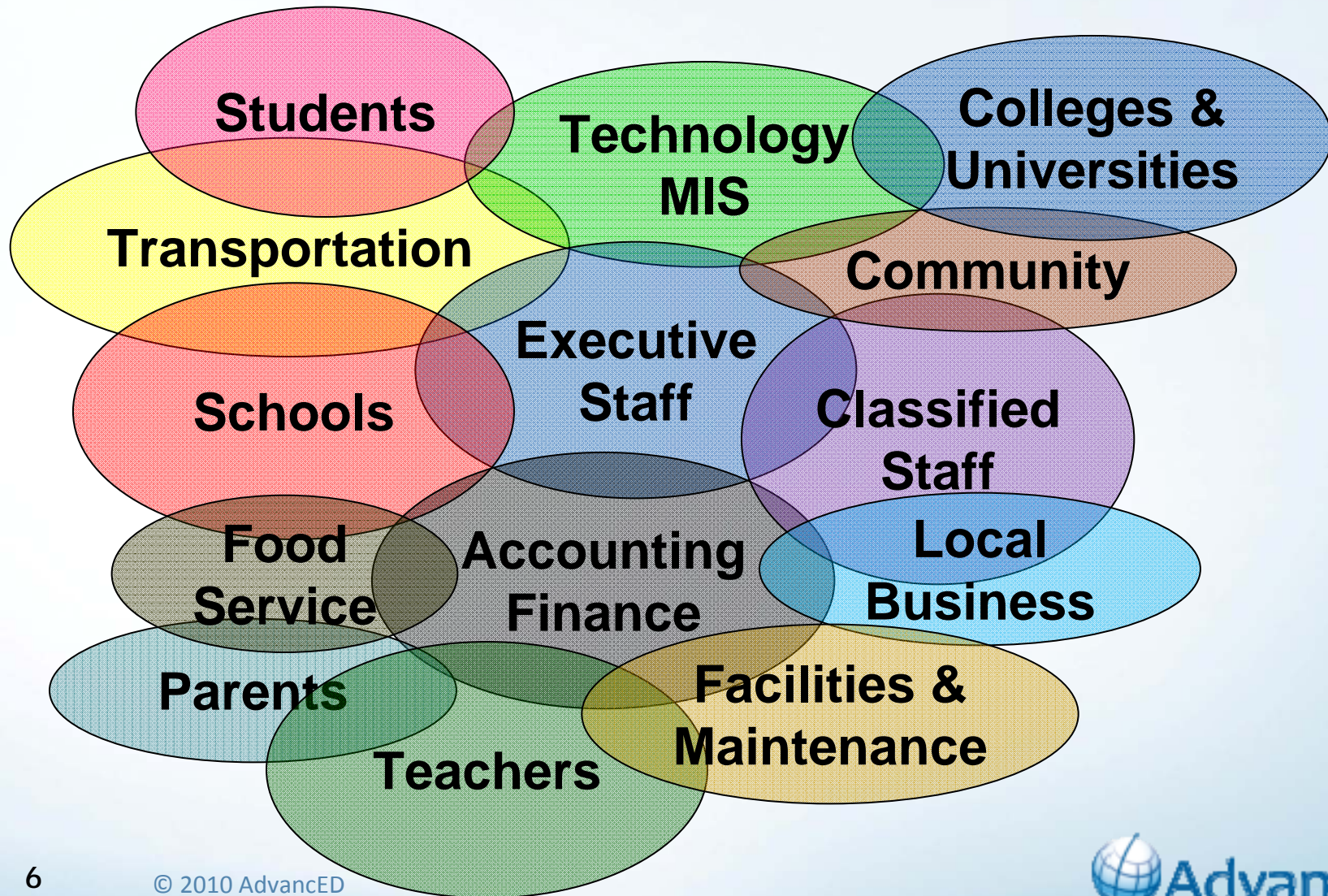
# District Accreditation

A national protocol for school districts committed to systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement

- Builds capacity to increase student learning and organizational effectiveness
- Stimulates, supports and ensures that all elements of the district work in harmony in pursuit of a shared vision



# System Elements



# Cornerstones of Accreditation

- Standards
  - Quality School Systems
  - Quality Schools
- Continuous Improvement
  - Systems Approach
- Quality Assurance
  - Internal Assessment
  - External Review

# Expectations

## *District*

- Meets the AdvancED Standards for Quality Systems
- Identifies and guides the implementation of a systemic continuous improvement process
- Monitors its schools and departments through a quality assurance process
- Prepares and hosts a QAR every five years
- Responds to findings from the QAR team



# Expectations

District leadership establishes and implements practices to support schools and departments

- **Direction:** sets expectations and provides guidelines
- **Assistance:** builds understanding and develops skills
- **Resources:** provides people, materials, time and funds

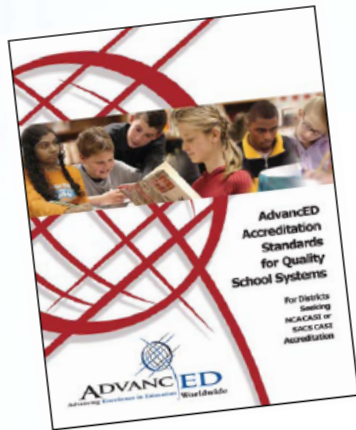
# Expectations

## Schools

- ◆ Meet the AdvancED Accreditation Standards for Quality Schools
- ◆ Implement the district's continuous improvement process
- ◆ Participate in the district's quality assurance process

# AdvancED Accreditation Standards

*The district provides evidence of meeting the Standards for Quality Systems*



1. Vision and Purpose
2. Governance and Leadership
3. Teaching and Learning
4. Documenting and Using Results
5. Resources and Support Systems
6. Stakeholder Communications and Relationships
7. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

# Quality System Standards

Comprehensive research based statements of practices and conditions that collectively form a picture of quality

- Cross state, regional, national and international boundaries
- Focus on factors contributing to student learning
- Address variables schools/districts can impact
- Are interrelated and systemically connected

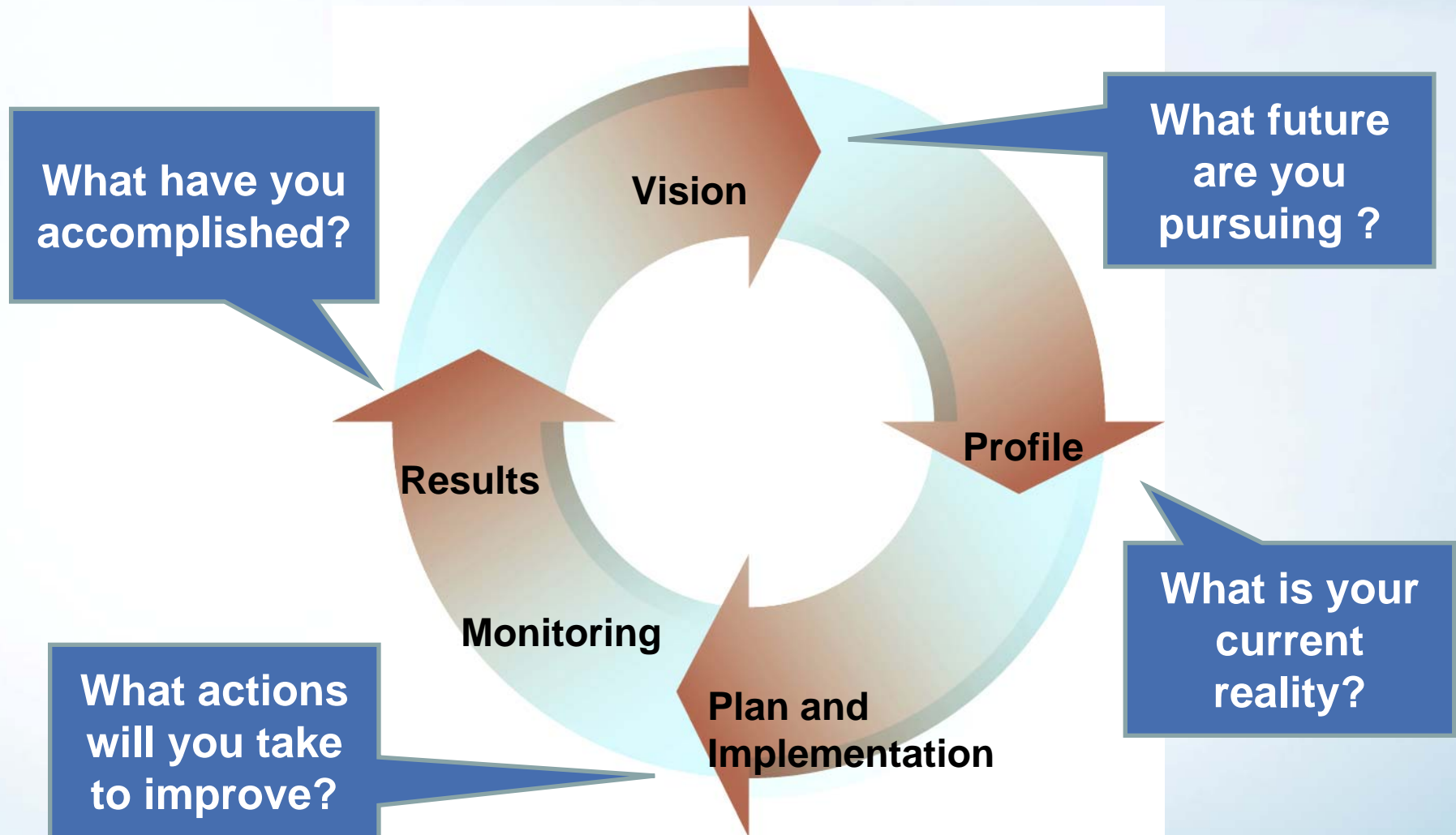
# Continuous Improvement

The district has the responsibility and flexibility to identify, implement, and monitor a systemic continuous improvement process that:

- Ensures continuity, coherence, alignment and collaboration
- Promotes purposeful action, at all levels, to achieve vision and goals
- Addresses the essential elements of continuous improvement



# Improvement Process Elements



# Quality Assurance Public Trust

Internal Review – a mirror

The district implements methods to assess standards, monitor progress and determine effectiveness of efforts (ongoing)

External Review – a window

Once every five years, the district participates in a Quality Assurance Review. It hosts a visit by a team of professional peers.

# Quality Assurance Internal Review

## *The District*

- Regularly collects data and uses results
- Periodically assesses the standards for formative use
- Designs and implements a program of assessment practices to:
  - monitor and document improvement
  - provide meaningful feedback and support
  - ensure alignment across the system
- Completes and submits the Standards Assessment Report

# District Standards Assessment Report

- Executive Summary
- Standards Section (*for each standard*)
  - Assessment of individual indicators
  - Rating of standard (rubric)
  - Written narrative (focus questions)
- Description of Quality Assurance Methods
- Submission of Peer-to-Peer Practice (optional)
- Conclusion: Insights, Strengths, Challenges  
*submitted 6 months to 6 weeks prior to the visit*

# Quality Assurance External Review

## The QAR team

- Is comprised of members with diverse experience and rich contextual perspective
- Assesses and evaluates district effectiveness in meeting the requirements of accreditation

## The Team

- Meets with district staff and stakeholders
- Visits a representative sample of schools
- Conducts interviews, reviews artifacts and records observations

## The QAR process provides the district and community with

- Important validation and recognition



# The QAR Team

- Writes quality narratives for each standard highlighting strong points and opportunities for improvement
- Provides commendations that identify and celebrate noteworthy strengths
- Identifies areas needing improvement and develops required actions to help the district get better
- Shares findings in oral and written formats
- Makes an accreditation recommendation for national review

# After The Quality Assurance Review

## *Continue to Improve*

- Benefit from Team Feedback and Findings
  - Leverage commendations
  - Act on recommendations
  - Prepare and Submit Accreditation Progress Report
- Improve in Each Accreditation Component
  - Standards, Improvement, Quality Assurance
- Strengthen the System
- Enhance Stakeholder Interest and Involvement

# Accreditation Process and Products

	Processes	Products
Internal Review	conducts an internal review of its current capacity in meeting accreditation standards	Standards Assessment Report (SAR)
External Review	hosts an external review conducted by professional peers	Quality Assurance Review Report (QAR)
Continuous Improvement	continues to monitor, document, and evaluate improvement efforts	Accreditation Progress Report (APR)

# Essentials for Success

Effective Leadership

Healthy Culture

Stakeholder Involvement

Systems Approach

# Steps to District Accreditation

## *Applicant*

- Submit Letter of Interest
- Host a Readiness Visit

## *Candidate*

- Submit Letter of Commitment
- Prepare For and Host the QAR
- Complete District SAR

## *Accredited*

- Act on Findings
- Report on Progress
- Continue to Improve
- Stay informed regarding AdvancED changes and updates



# AdvancED Website

## www.advanc-ed.org

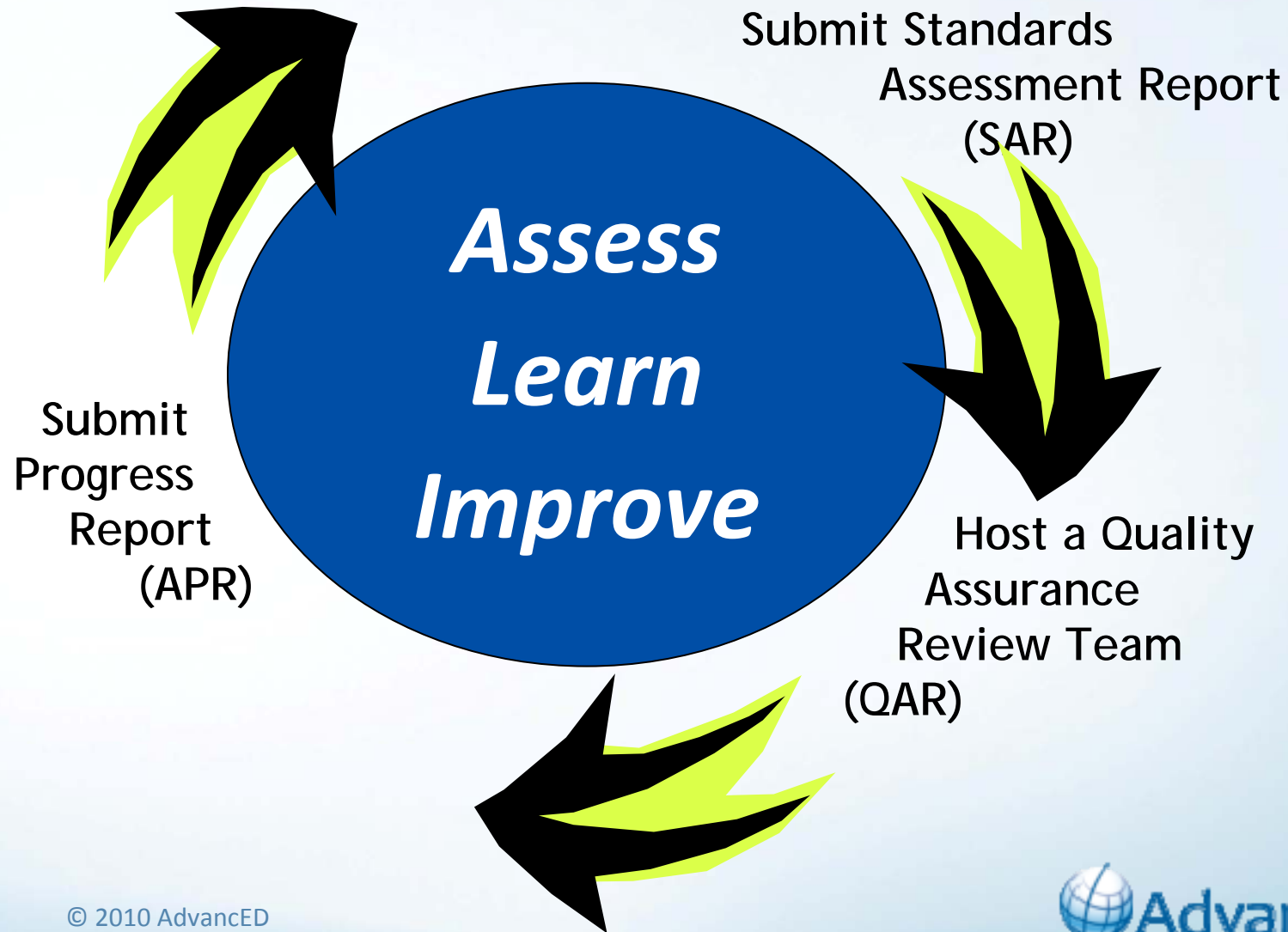
*Login, register,  
and tour!*

- Human Resources
- Printed Resources
- Electronic Resources

The screenshot shows the AdvancED website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Locations, Find Accredited Schools, Online Store, Contact Us, Job Opportunities, and Log In. The AdvancED logo is prominently displayed. Below the navigation bar, there are several menu items: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT, ACCREDITATION, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCES, and ISSUES IN EDUCATION. A central banner features a woman working on a laptop, with the text "FOSTERING NEW IDEAS & SOLUTIONS". To the right of the banner, there is a section for the "AdvancED Latin American Conference" with details about registration and dates. Below the banner, there are three main content areas: "ACCREDITED SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE" with a world map, "LEARN MORE ABOUT ACCREDITATION" with a list of questions, and a "QUICK POLL" titled "WILL PAYING TEACHERS FOR RESULTS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION?" with radio button options for Yes, No, and Unsure, and a "Vote" button.

# Accreditation Process

*Districts are accredited for a five-year term*



AdvancED® Michigan  
Fall Conference 2011



Rick Wormeli  
Middle School Teacher  
Author

**Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Register Soon:**

**[www.advanc-ed.org/michigan](http://www.advanc-ed.org/michigan)**

**Lansing Center**

**Lansing, MI**

## Closing Thought

*When you cease getting better,  
you stop being good!*

**Vince Lombardi**

We appreciate your interest in  
District Accreditation

### **Additional Questions?**

Contact the AdvancED Michigan office

**(866) 642-4622**

**tdolan111197@comcast.net**