



AdvancED™ External Review Exit Report

**Archdiocese of Denver
October 22 – 24, 2014**



Accreditation is...

An international protocol for institutions committed to systemic, systematic, and sustainable improvement

- Builds capacity of the institution to improve and sustain student learning
- Stimulates and improves effectiveness and efficiency throughout the institution



Balanced Accreditation

Analysis and Evaluation of

- **Impact of Teaching and Learning**
- **Leadership Capacity**
- **Resource Utilization**

External Review

- The External Review Team
 - Comprised of professional peers with diverse experience and rich contextual perspective
 - Determines the institution's effectiveness in meeting the requirements of accreditation
- The External Review Process
 - Provides analysis and evaluation
 - Delivers valuable feedback and direction for improvement

Strong Academics and safe environment wrapped in faith.

Pastor

We are grateful for the diversity in our school; God is the “glue” that holds us together.

Parent

We are not a test centered factory for education. We are a Christ –Centered community for the formation of the whole child.

Richard Thompson – Superintendent of Schools



Interviews & Observations

- 188 Interviews
 - 3 Superintendents
 - 43 Administrators
 - 10 Support Staff
 - 34 Parents
 - 8 Pastors
 - 36 Teachers
 - 54 Students
- 74 Effective Learning Environment Observations

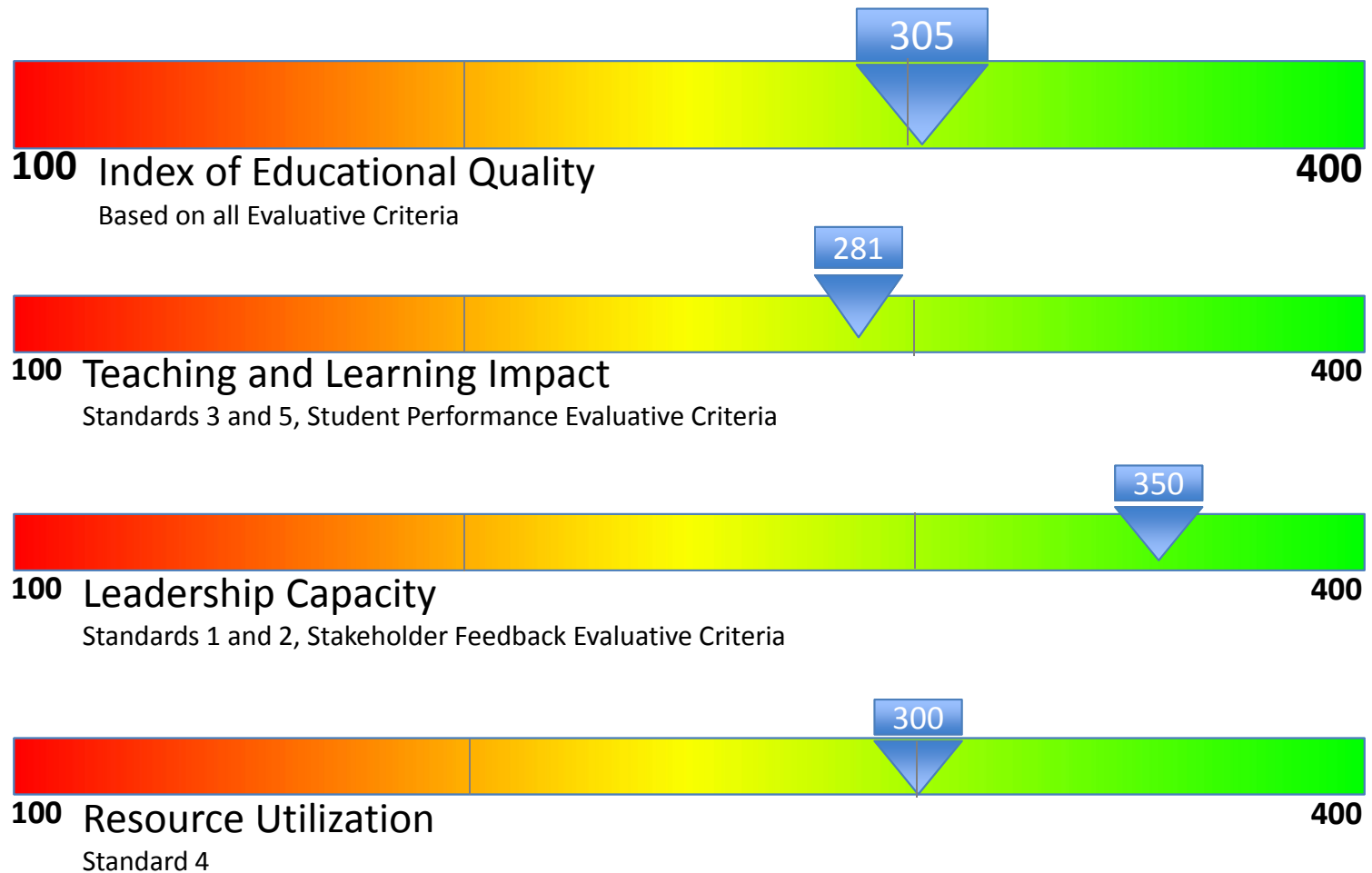
Learning Environment Ratings

1	Equitable Learning Environment	2.68
2	High Expectations Environment	2.98
3	Supportive Learning Environment	3.34
4	Active Learning Environment	3.07
5	Progress Monitoring and Feedback Environment	2.86
6	Well-Managed Learning Environment	3.29
7	Digital Learning Environment	1.77

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Index of Educational Quality



Index of Catholic Criteria Quality



Powerful Practices

The Archdiocese of Denver has developed and implemented a robust branding and marketing campaign for the schools in the Archdiocese. These campaigns have their roots in the mission and vision of the Archdiocese and have resulted in reduced competition between schools, increased visibility and recognition throughout the community, and an increased/stabilized enrollment in many of the Archdiocesan schools. The Archdiocese of Denver is now poised to implement the next steps which will involve a deeper commitment from the schools and an increased investment from the broader community.

Powerful Practices

The mission of the Office of Catholic Schools is known, promoted, and honored. This mission supports and sustains the Catholic culture of the schools of the Archdiocese in their affirmation of parents as primary educators, the recognition of the teaching ministry as vocation, the embrace of the education of the whole child, the manifestation of the works of service and mercy, and faithfulness to the Gospel message to evangelize. This was demonstrated to the External Review Team through written documentation provided by the schools, presentations, results from surveys, observations and interviews with stakeholders. Because the leadership of the Office of Catholic Schools is committed to and consistently articulates faithfulness to mission, the school communities engage purposefully in that mission and vision.

Powerful Practices

A highly effective team of leaders provides dynamic and visionary leadership for the system and its schools. The school communities of the Archdiocese of Denver gratefully acknowledge the staff of the Office of Catholic Schools for their commitment to mission, the centering of the ministry in Christ the first teacher, their leadership in formation and training, focus on academic rigor, and their assistance, kindness, and courtesy in every circumstance. This was demonstrated to the External Review Team through written documentation provided by the schools, results from surveys, observations and interviews with stakeholders. As on the road to Emmaus, Christ walked the journey with His followers and empowered them to discipleship, the Office of Catholic Schools walks the journey with the school communities and guides and empowers them as they teach and serve.

Powerful Practices

As the Catholic school communities journey toward mission fulfillment, academic excellence, and preparing students for civic and church leadership, the Office of Catholic schools offers formal formations and trainings for all stakeholder groups who share and collaborate in the ministry of Catholic education. This was demonstrated to the External Review Team through written documentation provided by the schools, results from surveys, observations and interviews with stakeholders. When a system implements an effective training and mentoring program coupled with support partnerships, principals, teachers, and school leadership groups gain a deeper understanding of the vision, shared values and beliefs embraced by the Catholic school leadership.

Powerful Practices

The Arch Diocese of Denver has adopted a funding model that is equitable, just and allows the support of a diverse portfolio of schools. Money is distributed to schools for tuition assistance, innovated grants and need based. Principals and stakeholders recognize the benefits of this approach and feel that all the schools have benefited. Schools are able to apply yearly for innovated grants such as classical education, one to one initiatives, Expeditionary Learning allowing each school community to identify and address their unique goals.

Improvement Priorities

Develop and implement a branding continuity plan that ensures the continuation of branding research, as well as ongoing strategies to adapt the brand to changing conditions, and market the brand of the Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools to current and prospective stakeholders. Interviews with staff, stakeholders and community partners, as well as an examination of longitudinal brand research data indicated a significant level impact the archdiocesan branding initiative has had on the Archdiocese of Denver over time.

Ongoing branding research provides feedback on shifts in stakeholder perceptions and priorities and ensures the communication of a current, coherent, systemic vision for schools individually and for the system as a whole.

Improvement Priorities

Design and implement leadership succession strategies related to the superintendent of schools search process that provide for the involvement of key stakeholders (principals and pastors) and ensure communication is maintained regarding the process with the Archdiocese of Denver community as a whole. Interviews with archdiocesan staff, principals, pastors as well as parent and community partners revealed the hope for wider involvement of stakeholders in the search process. The feedback of key constituents will inspire confidence in the process, ensure transparency, and build a platform of trust for new leadership.

Improvement Priorities

Design and implement a comprehensive impact study related to the impact of Catholic Schools Assistance Fund (CSAF) funding on program and services including, but not limited to, tuition assistance, enrollment management, innovative programming and brand marketing.

Examination of stakeholder feedback data as well as interviews with archdiocesan leadership and staff at all levels revealed the significant level of impact CSAF funding has had on programs and services within the Archdiocese of Denver. Due to the powerful and pervasive impact this program, the results of this impact study should be highly considered before making any decisions regarding the extension, modification or elimination of this program.



Based on our findings from the review of evidence, this External Review Team recommends that

The Archdiocese of Denver

be accredited, pending further review and final action by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission.

Accreditation Decision

External Review

Completed!

**AdvancED Office Reviews and Sends
Report Back to You**

30 Days

**AdvancED Accreditation Commission
Grants Accreditation and Status**

**January
June**

Final Thoughts

- On behalf of the External Review Team, we extend:
 - Our appreciation for your hospitality, support, and professionalism;
 - Our respect and acknowledgement of your efforts to improve quality; and
 - Our congratulations for your progress toward achieving Accreditation as a quality institution.



Our mission is to lead and empower the education community to ensure that all learners realize their maximum potential.