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DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM MAINTAINS ACCREDITATION STATUS

The DeKalb County School System announced today it has maintained its accreditation status with AdvancED, the School System's accrediting agency, as it works to complete established steps to improve its operations and prepares for the five-year renewal of its accreditation in March.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council, an accreditation division of AdvancED, recommended that DeKalb Schools remain in the accreditation status of "accredited on advisement" as it completes two of eight actions to improve School System effectiveness that AdvancED recommended in January.

AdvancED praised the School System for completing six of the eight actions this year, including hiring a permanent Superintendent, approving a redistricting and consolidation plan, updating School System operational policies and improving School System communications.

AdvancED recommended that the School System continue working to establish a clear role and line of authority for its internal auditor and complete a strategic plan to guide the future direction of the School System.

Both efforts are underway, and are scheduled to be completed for AdvancED's review early next year, said Dr. Cheryl Atkinson, Superintendent of the DeKalb County School System.

"We appreciate the help and guidance AdvancED continues to provide DeKalb Schools," Dr. Atkinson said. "We look forward to working with AdvancED as we take steps to ensure the School System has an effective,

objective and independent auditor, as well as a comprehensive strategic plan to guide DeKalb Schools moving forward.”

Dr. Atkinson added that the School System’s accreditation is not at risk.

AdvancED visited DeKalb Schools in January after School System leadership recognized areas for improvement and asked AdvancED for assistance and support.

The School System will submit a report to AdvancED by Feb. 15, documenting additional steps it has taken to address the remaining actions. AdvancED will assess those steps during an on-site review of the School System’s five-year accreditation status, scheduled to take place in March.

“The DeKalb County School System has demonstrated significant work in developing and implementing actions to move the School System forward beyond its past challenges,” stated Dr. Mark Elgart, President and CEO, AdvancED. “With continued work on the remaining required actions and a focus on sustaining the efforts made to date, the School System will continue to repair its reputation and restore trust with its stakeholders.”

For more information about the DeKalb County School System, please visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us.

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