

School Accreditation



Apex Chamber of Commerce

May 18, 2011



An overview

- **What is accreditation?**
- **Why does it matter?**
- **Who is AdvancED?**
- **Are there other options?**
- **Where does that leave us?**



What it is

- A standard ensuring organizations follow specific guidelines and protocol
- A process that requires self-evaluation



What it is

- A “Seal of Approval” suggesting quality



that can be found in just about...



...every part of
life



This Program is Accredited by the



Commission on Accreditation
of Athletic Training Education





What it is *not*

- A reward for past success
- A prediction of future results

What it is not



An accredited business does not guarantee



An accredited medical practice does not guarantee



An accredited school does not guarantee



Is school accreditation different?

- The history of school accreditation varies by state with clear differences between higher education and K-12.
- In North Carolina, the dominant agency is AdvancED with a history dating to the late 1800s.
- The accreditation process is voluntary, but....

..accreditation is important

- Federal Loans
- Federal Grants
- College admissions

“(A) school must have accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible to participate in the administration of federal student aid programs.”

*-U.S. Department of Education,
Annual Guide to Federal Student Aid*



“By their anticipated date of enrollment, candidates for admission should have reached the age of 16 and must have graduated from an approved or accredited secondary school.”

*-2010-2011 Undergraduate Bulletin,
UNC-Chapel Hill*



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL



Accreditation Levels

- Accredited
- Accredited On Advisement
- Accredited Warned
- Accredited Probation
- Non-Accredited



Wake's status: "Accredited Warned"

- AdvancED report of March 16 cites violations of Governance and Leadership in Wake County. The schools maintain accreditation, but the district is warned.
- AdvancED lists seven requirements to complete by Nov. 30 to restore full accreditation. The report notes some steps that have already been taken.

Wake's response: Formal and Complete

- Feb. 25: School board members and superintendent work together as a governance team to unanimously approve a new mission statement, vision statement and core beliefs.
- May 3: Status report shows seven AdvanED requirements divided into 56 steps. Twenty-three completed.

Does it have to be AdvancED?

NC House Bill 342

Short Title: High School Accreditation

House Bill 342

“The Board of Governors shall adopt a policy that prohibits any constituent institution from soliciting or using information regarding the accreditation of a secondary school located in North Carolina that a person attended as a factor affecting admissions, loans, scholarships, or other educational activity at the constituent institution, unless the accreditation was conducted by a State agency.”

House Bill 342

“Upon the request of a local board of education, the State Board of Education shall evaluate schools in local school administrative units to determine whether the education provided by those schools meets acceptable levels of quality. The State Board shall adopt rigorous academic standards for accreditation...”

“The local school administrative unit shall compensate the State Board for the actual costs of the accreditation process.”

Where does that leave us?

"The legislators need to be careful because not every student in North Carolina will go to a school or college in the state."

- Mark Elgart, president of AdvancED

Where does that leave us?

"I'd hesitate long and hard before encouraging our board to step into campus admissions activities."

- Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the UNC system's board

Where does that leave us?

"That group has lost all credibility with me. I want accreditation to be based on academic quality."

- Rep. Skip Stam, R-Apex

Where does that leave us?

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*Status: Approved by House Education
Committee March 30 and referred to
House Appropriations*