

Achieving Excellence by Design

Creating an Inclusive and Unified Strategic Plan for Your District through Accreditation

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Accreditation is a self-evaluation process that schools and school systems voluntarily use to demonstrate they are meeting a defined set of research-based performance standards. The standards examine schools in a holistic way, supplementing student-testing data to provide a more complete measure of a school's performance. In the end, the accreditation process creates a coalition of administrators, parents, students, and teachers who work together to **develop a strategic plan designed to guide schools toward a more successful future.**

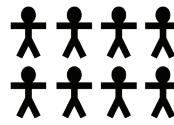
Notes From the Field: Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)



320
Districts



1000
Square Miles



160,000
Students with Diverse Needs
Using a Wide Array of Services

At Eastern Suffolk BOCES, an Educational Service Agency in New York, a culture of planning drives what they do. Thanks in large part to the Middle States accreditation process and its influence over the agency's strategic planning efforts, Eastern Suffolk BOCES has a well-crafted plan that focuses on continuous improvement. If a problem arises that is not addressed in the plan, staff members at Eastern Suffolk BOCES incorporate the issue and chart out a solution.

During the time that Eastern Suffolk BOCES has worked with Middle States the organization's management team has naturally grown and changed. Yet leadership transitions have historically been smooth and organized at Eastern Suffolk BOCES because plans designed through the Middle States accreditation process provide new leaders with a roadmap for success.

That's because the plan drives the work—not the individuals.

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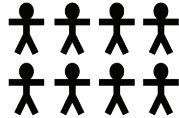
Notes From the Field: Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) [continued]

Charged with assisting districts in implementing New York State Education Department Initiatives and providing direct instruction in special, career and technical education, Eastern Suffolk BOCES has an important and complex role in New York education. The agency supports a regional enrollment of approximately 160,000 students and has been accredited by Middle States since 2000.

Notes From The Field: The School District of Philadelphia



54
High Schools



38,059
High School Students



100% of Students Qualify
for Free Lunch

One of the primary benefits of the Middle States accreditation process for The School District of Philadelphia is the way in which it helps streamline systems so that individual schools are better able to manage multiple demands. In Philadelphia, those demands are centered primarily on ensuring students graduate high school prepared for college and career.

Today, tools implemented as a result of the accreditation process are helping Philadelphia public schools achieve the following:

- Implementing effective instructional practices that meet the needs of all students across all classrooms and aligns with the Pennsylvania Framework for Teaching.
- Following a comprehensive school improvement framework to address academic, behavioral and social-emotional positive outcomes for all students.
- Executing on a systematic approach that provides transparency and accountability with qualitative and quantitative data that reflect the school's efforts to address their mission, the district's vision, and the superintendent's district-wide action plan.

The School District of Philadelphia is the eighth largest school district in the nation, enrolling 130,789 students in grades Kindergarten through 12. There are 238 total schools, all of which are deemed Title I, and 100 percent of students qualify for free lunch. All of the District's 54 high schools are on track to be accredited by 2024. Currently, there are 28 Middle States accredited schools in the District.

Thanks in part to the accreditation process, the District has reached several significant milestones within its high schools in recent years, including increased accessibility to free PSAT and SAT practice tests and college-prep tools, more than 3,800 certifications qualifying students for jobs post-graduation, and a consistent increase in high school graduation rates.

The Middle States approach to system-wide accreditation is best suited for school districts that have, or wish to develop, a strategic plan sharply focused on continuous and system-wide efforts to grow and improve student performance.

We believe every school has the capacity to provide quality education.



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