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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GCSS receives accreditation recommendation from Review Team

March 22, 2013 – The Greene County Board of Education along with school system administrators and staff learned Wednesday afternoon during a special called meeting that the district will be recommended for accreditation by its AdvancED accreditation team. Following a four-day visit, the team informed Board members and staff that the district received “good, solid scores across the board.”

The five member External Review Team, which included two out-of-state retired educators and three in-state educators, evaluated the district based on AdvancED’s five Standards for Quality.

The Standards are:

- Standard 1: Purpose and Direction
- Standard 2: Governance and Leadership
- Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning
- Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems
- Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement

Agnes Smith, who served as the Lead Evaluator, explained that the team used an assessment measure of 1-4, with 1 being the lowest and 4 being the highest assessment given.

“The 4 is perfection and I’ll just explain to you very clearly no one is assigned a 4,” said Smith. “A 4 is when there is nothing more to do. Well this whole process is about continuous improvement. There is always more to do when we’re working with students.”

GCSS received between 2 and 3 on all the standards.

“The 3 means there are some exemplary measures in place that are systemic. The 2 is the function that meets the standards with perhaps some areas where more can be done, and

that really is the more often score. Occasionally a district might be assigned a 3, but you will not see a 4,” Smith said.

GCSS’s scores

Standard 1: Purpose and Direction – 2.75

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership – 3.0

Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning – 2.33

Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems – 2.75

Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement – 2.40

The team further went on to praise system leadership on building stakeholder and community relationships, which fosters a culture consistent with the district’s purpose and direction.

“You really have a lot to be proud of for your system leadership that is very focused on students, student achievement and making sure that each classroom is a rich learning environment for students,” Smith said.

The team did recommend that the district improve on its process of differentiated instruction; develop a mentoring program that makes sure every student has an adult advocate; and train staff on collecting, analyzing, and basing decisions on current data on behalf of students. Within two years the district must document progress towards these recommendations. However the district’s next accreditation review will be in five years.

The External Review Team will submit their recommendation to the AdvancED Commission for approval. The commission will vote on the recommendation in June.

While in Greene County, the team interviewed 133 people in all – 28 parents and community stakeholders, 36 teachers, 50 students, four Board of Education members, one Superintendent and 14 administrators.

AdvancED is the parent organization of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). AdvancED is dedicated to advancing excellence in education worldwide through accreditation, research and professional services. AdvancED is the world's largest education community, engaging 27,000 public and private schools and districts across the United States and in 65 countries worldwide and educating 15 million students.

Dr. Sabrina Tillman Winfrey, PREP Center Coordinator, served as the district’s AdvancED Coordinator.

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