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(Neb)-Chadron Public Schools Ace Accreditation Visit [Listen](#)

By: John Axtell Posted at: 12/05/2018 11:52 PM

CHADRON - Chadron School Superintendent Dr Caroline Winchester could not be more pleased with last week's accreditation visit by a 5-person team from AdvancED, the largest accreditation body in the country. She says the team's preliminary report was full of praise, start to finish, as the district scored in the top range in 61 of 65 categories.

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While in Chadron, the assessment team made 43 classroom visits and held 156 interviews with district students and staff as well as members of the community. Its final report will go to the AdvancED board, which meets in January and June. Winchester is optimistic the approval will come next month.

Accreditation from AdvancED lasts for 5 years and the Chadron district started preparing for last week's visit almost as soon as the ink dried on those documents by moving forward to implement them and set up processes for evaluation.

Winchester says the results impressed the team leader, a retired superintendent from Illinois, who told her the district's score on one set of evaluations was the highest he's ever seen.

The Chadron Public Schools work with businesses, government agencies, and community groups also impressed him, drawing a comment that he'd never seen so many partnerships in a city Chadron's size.

Winchester says virtually everyone connected to the Chadron Public Schools either formally or informally shares in the credit for both the successful accreditation visit and for the learning that's occurring every day.

Each AdvancED report includes recommendations for the district under review and the areas for the Chadron recommendations were essentially laid out for the team by Winchester in her executive summary to them.

Those include continuing existing work to integrate technology into the curriculum, class alignment, and the social and mental health of students. The latter goes hand-in-hand with last month's announcement that the Chadron district is one of just 3 in the state to share in a 5-year, \$9-million dollar grant to develop pilot programs focusing on the mental health of students.