ADVANC ED

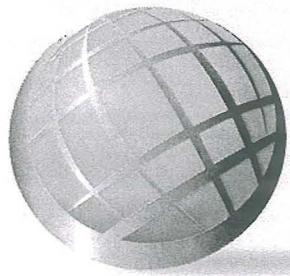**Advancing Excellence in Education** Worldwide

AdvancED® assist

Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools

Unleash *Excellence.*

assist
AdvancED

Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools

School improvement is a challenging process.

As the world's largest educational accrediting and school improvement organization engaging a community of 27,000 public and private schools and districts, AdvancED is an expert at providing tools and services to support schools and districts in meeting this challenge.
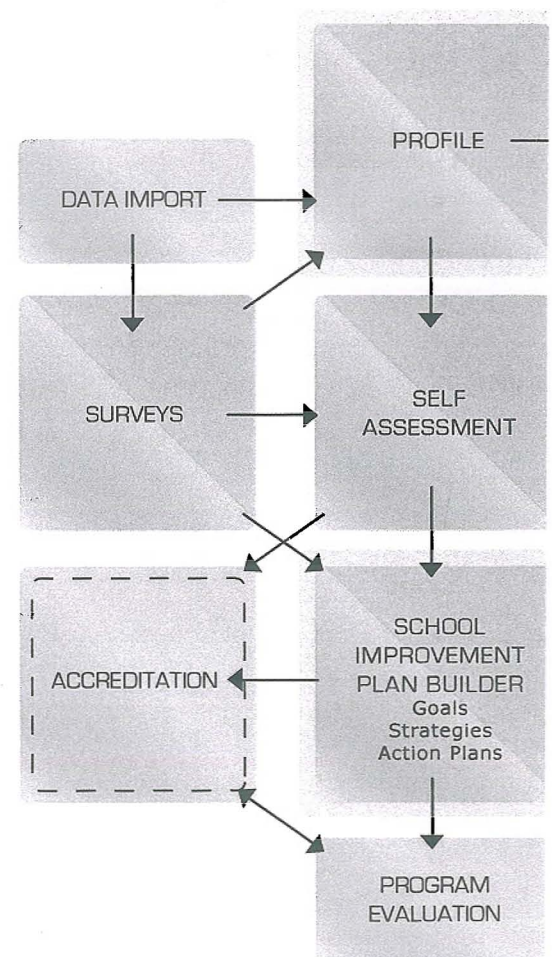
Continuous school improvement requires careful, honest, self-assessment, along with disciplined, thoughtful, planning and attention to an array of legal and programmatic requirements. And even then, it's easy to miss crucial details. Sometimes it seems as if more work goes into talking about improvement than actually moving to the next level of performance.

At least, that's the way it has always been. But everything is about to change.

School improvement is moving into the digital age, thanks to a comprehensive set of resources being delivered by the nation's knowledge leader on organizational quality. The AdvancED **Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools (ASSIST)** is a state-of-the-art system that allows schools to streamline and enhance their efforts to boost student achievement.

Using AdvancED ASSIST, a school can gain a better understanding of its past successes and opportunities, and confidently build a solid, research-based plan for the future. What's more, AdvancED ASSIST offers valuable tools for compliance, assurances, and implementation, so schools can be certain no details will fall through the cracks. Ten high-tech modules offer a comprehensive system of tools and resources that will help schools take their performance farther than they ever thought possible.

AdvancED ASSIST **is created to both broaden and sharpen thinking about school improvement, performance, and accreditation. The many disparate requirements, duties, and functions of effective school leadership and compliance are brought together into a single seamless tool that helps facilitate progressive thinking and dialogue about school quality. What's more, the entire effort is packaged as a user-friendly online resource that collects and integrates a broad array of data to help bolster the world's leading knowledge base about K-12 organizational management and performance.**

DATA IMPORT → PROFILE

SURVEYS → SELF ASSESSMENT

ACCREDITATION ← SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUILDER
Goals
Strategies
Action Plans

PROGRAM EVALUATION

ADVANCED
Advancing Excellence in Education | Worldwide

Ten Modules for Boosting Success

AdvancED ASSIST is designed to give users exactly what they need—no more, no less. Schools can choose from a broad menu of service options to support their unique needs and capabilities at the local level.
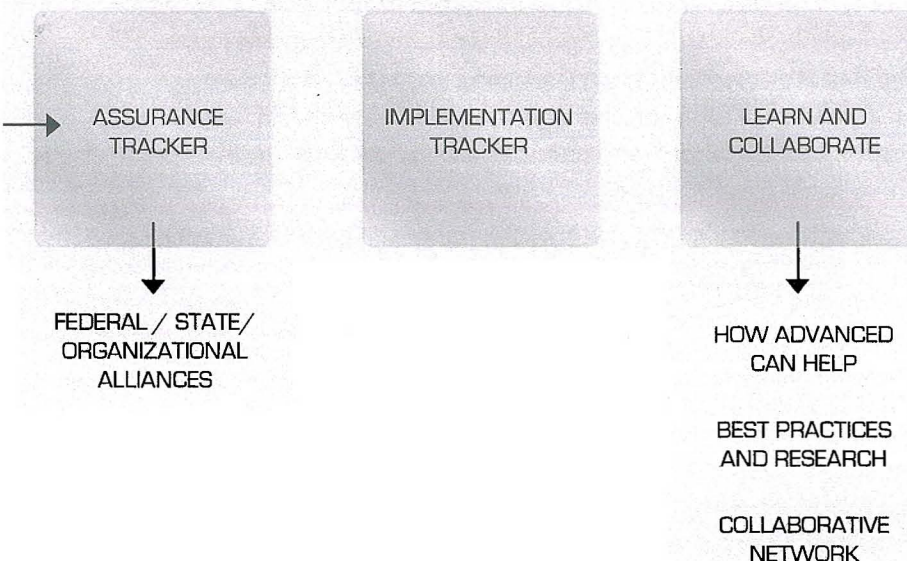
The ten modules included in AdvancED ASSIST are bundled together in a single package. An independent system of Surveys and Program Evaluation can be purchased separately from the complete AdvancED ASSIST package. However, it holds true that the more a school puts into ASSIST, the more a school can gain from it.

What makes AdvancED ASSIST truly unique is its ability to encompass broad ideas and amass large quantities of knowledge while simultaneously providing targeted, specific information and support to users at the individual school level. It is the local focus of AdvancED ASSIST that gives the product its true strength; no other school improvement tool is so carefully geared to ensuring customized, understandable online guidance, assistance, and analytics to local leaders and staff.

AYP / NCLB STATUS
TITLE I STATUS
ACCREDITATION STATUS

AdvancED ASSIST Modules

The basic structure and capacity of AdvancED ASSIST

ASSURANCE TRACKER	IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER	LEARN AND COLLABORATE

FEDERAL / STATE/ ORGANIZATIONAL ALLIANCES

HOW ADVANCED CAN HELP

BEST PRACTICES AND RESEARCH

COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

AdvancED ASSIST is firmly grounded in the following key principles:

A broader, smarter school improvement process is critical. AdvancED ASSIST will offer all of the following to stream-line and maximize the process for school leaders:

- *Intelligence*
- *Systemic utilization*
- *Efficiency*
- *Flexibility*
- *Intuitive, user-friendly design*
- *Analytics*
- *Automatic compliance checks*
- *Implementation tools*

A single integrated, manipulable information architecture is necessary to determine how improvement efforts are working at the local, state and national levels.

AdvancED ASSIST will provide enhanced utility, increased operational efficiency, performance analytics, and improved reporting/research capacity for analysts and policymakers alike.

A system for fostering focused peer-to-peer conversations is needed. *School leaders and improvement teams must be able to quickly and easily find similarly-situated peers with whom they can learn and share.*

Global standards for organizational effectiveness (beyond measuring mere student achievement) must be developed.

Once AdvancED ASSIST has been brought to scale, it will help support a ground-breaking international dialogue about educational and institutional quality.

The AdvancED ASSIST Modules

PROFILE

The Profile Module allows a school to interact with its performance, compliance, and accreditation information in a way that shows trends and builds a strong foundation for the school's overall improvement. It also tracks a school's Title I and NCLB accountability status, so schools can be reminded of key tasks and compliance requirements. The Profile Module also offers the promise of future analytical capability for schools, districts and states, to allow for performance comparisons among various peer groups.

DATA IMPORT

While users will seldom interact directly with this module, its importance derives from the need to populate AdvancED ASSIST with as much existing information as possible. States, large districts and other data sources can help streamline and improve the user experience by uploading performance and demographic data so school leaders don't have to.

SELF ASSESSMENT

The Self-Assessment Module asks schools to answer questions linked to AdvancED's seven research-based standards and 56 indicators; it calculates self-assessment "rubric scores" for each indicator and aggregates them into standard-level self-assessments. Once all information has been provided, AdvancED ASSIST offers a printable report for analysis and discussion at the local level.

This module also provides support relative to various compliance assurances, allowing schools to address core issues and upload documentary evidence. Ancillary resources, such as readiness and facilitator toolkits, will be provided through this module to allow for more effective dialogue and a richer shared understanding of where improvements are needed.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN ("SIP") BUILDER

The SIP Builder helps schools use their data profiles, self-assessments and other information to identify areas of strength and opportunity. The module then leads users through the steps of identifying goals from this information, defining disciplined measurable objectives, selecting strategies, developing action plans, and allocating resources. Applicable Title I requirements are included to ensure schools are addressing all necessary compliance issues. Facilitator tools and resources are also available in this section of AdvancED ASSIST to support school-level interactions and activities.

When the school has completed its plan, AdvancED ASSIST will generate a printable final document that is suitable for immediate use and fully aligned with all state and federal requirements.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

This module is designed to help users assess the effectiveness of individual programs in a way that is direct, simple and cost-effective. Users will respond to a series of questions that will help them assess their progress toward outcomes, get a better handle on why their processes achieve the results they do, link return on investment to effectiveness, and incorporate user/stakeholder feedback.

SURVEYS

The Survey Module offers users the capacity to build and administer surveys online, or order paper-based surveys for local distribution. In addition to helping users identify the surveys that are most appropriate for the school's current needs and objectives, the module also offers the ability for schools to customize and add their own questions for a fee. Survey users can easily manage and view survey results online, and will be able to generate written reports and PowerPoint presentations that are suitable for distribution.

ACCREDITATION MANAGEMENT

The Accreditation Management Module is designed to handle the logistical components of implementing AdvancED's Quality Assurance Review (QAR) visits and the findings and feedback generated by each QAR team. The module will contain all of the accreditation elements with which a QAR team must be concerned, in a simple Q&A structure. It will also serve as a process management tool to help facilitate QAR logistics and generate an accreditation status report. The processes and protocols developed by AdvancED serve as foundational research for the AdvancED ASSIST Framework of School Improvement.

ASSURANCE TRACKER

The Assurance Tracker supports schools and districts in their efforts to guarantee that operational requirements are implemented. This includes independent organizational assurances as well as statutory provisions under state/federal guidance. Throughout the other AdvancED ASSIST modules, the Assurance Tracker will request applicable assurances and related evidence, and will also remind schools and districts of their various responsibilities. This module will also provide reporting and monitoring capabilities for schools, districts, organizations, and states alike. It can serve as a "virtual monitoring" tool and provide timely feedback to constituencies.

IMPLEMENTATION TRACKER

The Implementation Tracker provides schools with project management tools and reminders as they implement their QAR team recommendations, School Improvement Plans, and other essential tasks. The tracker will be fed by dates, action items, and other relevant information, and will plug into calendars and other useful implementation and management tools.

LEARN AND COLLABORATE

This module allows for such common website elements as threaded discussions, links and lists of quality resources from AdvancED and beyond. In addition, the Learn and Collaborate Module will help schools identify peers that share key practices or characteristics. This functionality allows users to immediately click and link to resources that will enhance current efforts at improvement. Thus, it is not just a static set of tools, but also a highly adaptive, "smart" resource for change.

The Power to Transform

AdvancED ASSIST may be the most promising innovation in the history of school improvement to date. Coupling a world-class array of knowledge resources with practical implementation tools is a significant advancement by itself. Add interactive screens that support disciplined thought and ensure no compliance detail or improvement activity falls through the cracks, and suddenly schools have a tool with immense transformative capacity.

And the benefits don't end there. Districts, state agencies, and researchers benefit from the ability to aggregate and review, for the first time, how the practical work of school improvement is conducted at the local level. By reviewing how schools at all levels of performance make decisions and select strategies, analysts can study a far more robust body of knowledge about effective educational practice.

AdvancED ASSIST Benefits for Schools

- Broad menu of program planning, development, implementation and evaluation tools to complement the strengths of any size school and staff.
- Automated support for all aspects of organizational, state, and federal compliance/assurances, including necessary reports and reminders.
- One-stop access to relevant data, with tools for interpreting and understanding results.
- Clear linkage between school improvement and accreditation activities.
- High-quality tools and resources for gathering stakeholder input.
- Access to a searchable network of peers from across the country, as well as high-quality research and consulting support.

AdvancED ASSIST Benefits for Districts and States

- Automated planning/development tools can support schools in a disciplined, effective and consistent way.
- Compliance/assurance issues are managed automatically and can be customized to accommodate unique organizational, state, and district requirements, all but eliminating issues of non-compliance and freeing staff for more valuable work.
- A robust body of research at the local and state level is created.

AdvancED ASSIST Benefits for Researchers

Trends and issues can be quickly identified by reviewing:
- Demographic and enrollment data
- Standardized assessment results
- Student performance growth
- Other academic measures of achievement
- Areas of operational challenge, as measured against AdvancED standards and indicators in local self-assessments
- Stakeholder opinion results
- Local responses to AYP status/restructuring
- Commonly used school improvement goals, strategies and activities
- Program evaluation results
- Effective return on investment
- Resource utilization
- Areas of practice and research commonly queried by schools
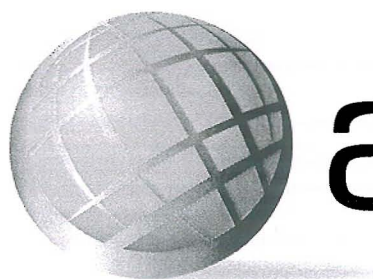- Much, much more!

Lead the Way

AdvancED ASSIST is the future of school improvement. As a visionary leader, we invite you to be a pioneer for educational innovation and leadership, and support schools and districts across the nation as they move collectively toward a systemic approach to school success.

As institutions pursue improved results and re-think their approach to organizational and academic achievement, your commitment will foster both leadership support on the front end and an increased capacity for research later in the process. The data generated as a result of AdvancED ASSIST will help resolve issues related to data consistency and utilization, supporting the objectives of NCLB and allowing for better informed policy and more effective, practical conclusions.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to completely re-shape the world of school improvement!

For more information, contact:

Dr. Mark Elgart, President & Chief Executive Officer, AdvancED
888.41.EDNOW

AdvancED
assist

Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools

ADVANC ED

Advancing Excellence in Education / Worldwide

2520 Northwinds Parkway | Suite 600 | Alpharetta, GA 30009
888.41EDNOW (888.413.3669)

www.advanc-ed.org