

Smokey Road Middle School SACS Visit 2005-2006

Smokey Road Middle School will be visited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) this March. This is the organization that accredits our colleges and schools by providing objective standards and a process for ensuring continuous school improvement and educational excellence. Re-accreditation occurs every five years and involves demonstrating our commitment to quality school standards and continuous improvement. We have been working hard to gather evidence to support our continued accreditation and showcase the hard work of the students and staff of Smokey Road Middle School.

In preparation for the SACS accreditation visit, a committee of Coweta County School System personnel visited our school on January 26-27 to review evidence and meet with administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community members involved with our school. At the conclusion of our internal SACS visit by the Coweta County School System, Smokey Road Middle School received the highest marks possible in all three areas of the SACS process and was recommended for continued accreditation. Below is a summary of the report.

I. Evidence of Meeting Standards

All 10 standards were marked as “Meets Expectations.” (We thought we might have some “meets with recommendations” on these, since that is how many great schools are rated.)

II. Demonstration of Continuous Improvement

“Level 4 Exemplary” – “The improvement process is consistently evident or routine, aligned with other practices, and focused on achieving the vision and expectations for student learning. Almost all staff is aware of the improvement process and understands its importance and how it impacts other people and practices in the school.”

III. Providing Quality Assurance

“Level 4 Exemplary” – “Methods for quality assurance are consistently evident or routine, aligned with other practices, and focused on achieving the vision and expectations for student learning. Almost all staff is aware of the methods for quality assurance and understands its importance and how it impacts other people and practices in the school.”

Special Comments

“Smokey Road Middle School is to be commended for its strong administration and leadership. The relationship and strong communication among students, staff, and stakeholders are evidence of its continuous improvement and high academic focus.”

These outstanding results were most definitely a Smokey Road team effort. Faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members all contributed to this process by providing input and feedback on various topics, participating in the stakeholder survey, and gathering, summarizing, and evaluating documentation for the SACS standards. Most importantly, I appreciate that the faculty and staff at Smokey Road Middle School truly believe in and implement our school improvement plan on a daily basis because it is what is best for our students.

We look forward to the next phase of the re-accreditation process and our visit from the external SACS team in March.