

NEASC Accreditation

Presented by
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to the VT Senate Committee on Education





Improving schools.
Empowering students.
Promoting excellence.



NEASC: who we are

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is an independent, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization which partners with **public**, **independent**, and **international** schools in the US and worldwide to assess, support, and promote high quality education for all students through accreditation, professional assistance, and pursuit of best practices.



A globally recognized standard of excellence, NEASC Accreditation attests to a school's high quality and integrity.



NEASC: who we are

Founded in 1885, NEASC has a long tradition of school improvement and has been working to establish and maintain high standards for all levels of education longer than any other accreditation agency in the United States.





NEASC's serves schools
around the world:
members, candidates,
and schools just beginning
their accreditation journey.

NEASC:

A global learning community

In addition to schools in the US, NEASC has served diverse PK-12 schools around the world for more than four decades. We currently accredit international schools in over 85 countries.





A responsive, hands-on
partnership with NEASC



NEASC Accreditation is...

- a framework for schools to challenge their thinking around operations and learning
- a way for schools to show families, universities, and the public that they have the resources to provide a high-quality learning experience
- a process for schools to gain insights from peers and validate the work schools are doing
- an integral part of a school's strategic planning process



www.neasc.org/accreditation



What does NEASC provide?

- support for schools to meet rigorous, research-based Standards for Accreditation
- coaching for school leaders to guide their community through the self-reflection process
- identification and validation of high leverage growth and improvement goals with an emphasis on impactful student learning



www.neasc.org/accreditation



What does NEASC provide?

- training and coordination of volunteers from the educational community to serve as peer reviewers during school visits
- specific, actionable feedback based on school visits, observations, interviews, and reports
- ongoing monitoring, resources, and professional guidance



NEASC Accreditation is

Confidence

Assurance of a high-quality learning experience for students, parents, the public, government, community leaders and other institutions

Vision

Defining the transferable skills, knowledge, understandings, and dispositions necessary for future student progress and success

Affirmation

An objective evaluation from educational colleagues through peer-review

Equity

Embracing the diversity and unique cultures of each school and supporting them wherever they are on the continuum of improvement/transformation

Collaboration

An ongoing self-reflective process that engages the entire school community and is supported by professional partnership

Integrity

Aligned with educational research, best practice, and governmental regulations, and responsive to member needs.

www.neasc.org/value





NEASC's Approach to Accreditation

- ensuring safety, sustainability, and effectiveness
- creating a welcoming environment and sense of belonging
- elevating growth and future-oriented thinking
- focusing on student-centered, personalized learning
- routinely achieving and measuring impacts on learners
- encouraging multiple, global perspectives

www.neasc.org/mission



NEASC's Equity Vision



www.neasc.org/equity-vision

NEASC promotes equity and inclusion to ensure that all learners belong, thrive, and succeed.



NEASC commits to:



- Implementing accreditation processes as a catalyst for advancing equity and inclusion.
- Supporting communities to learn and develop the skills necessary to promote inclusion, honor diversity, and advance equity.
- Embracing diverse identities, values, and perspectives.
- Creating time and space for difficult but essential conversations on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Developing equitable and inclusive policies and procedures, practices, and opportunities.



The NEASC Commission on Independent Schools commits to:



- an ongoing process of updating its accreditation and school improvement process to reflect the essential importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.
- a continuous review and revision of the language and content of all Standards, Indicators, the Required Materials each school submits with its self-study and the comprehensive Manual for School Improvement.
- updating, revising, and adding Equity case studies to its visiting chair workshops, visiting team workshops, self-study workshops, strategic planning workshops, and summer accreditation leader retreat.





The **NEASC Commission on Independent Schools** expects each independent school to reflect and act on the meaning and practice of equity and inclusion in its educational mission, in alignment with the learning needs of its students and in its cultural, social, or religious context. This expectation includes reflecting on those who may have been traditionally marginalized or excluded from the community.

The Commission is dedicated to developing and providing resources and best practices to support equity, inclusion, and belonging for its member schools.

www.neasc.org/equity-vision



The NEASC Commission on Public Schools commits to:



- involve commissioners, educators from member schools, and staff members in the process of implementing the NEASC Equity Vision by establishing an Equity Committee
- review and update key materials used by schools through the accreditation process to ensure that reflection on diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the process
- develop individual and shared understandings of diversity, equity, and inclusion through staff professional learning, experiences, and reflection



The **NEASC Commission on Public Schools** will update the Self-Reflection Guide and visiting team handbooks to better align with diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities. Working definitions of key terms and additional resources to guide schools through the Accreditation and school improvement processes are in development. Special attention is being devoted to updating the Commission guidance and policy regarding library/media centers to ensure equitable access to learning support and resources for all students.

www.neasc.org/equity-vision





Questions?



Thank you!