

AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to The Riverside School, Lyndonville, VT, to serve students in grades K-8, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification of continued New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation?

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of independent school approval to The Riverside School, Lyndonville, VT, to serve students in grades K-8, based upon the review by the

Agency of Education and notification of continued New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation. This approval is for one year, through June 30, 2017, to coincide with the school's NEASC accreditation period.

Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Agency of Education whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration, during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. §166(b)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The Riverside School is an independent day school for students in grades K-8. The mission of the school is to develop active learners, patient leaders, and engaged citizens in a supportive community.
2. The Riverside School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC), which is recognized by the Vermont State Board of Education pursuant to State Board rule #7320. Other than a routine annual report, the next major responsibility regarding accreditation will be the Five-Year report in 2017 at which time the school's accreditation will be reviewed. The Riverside School's next regularly scheduled evaluation visit will be in 2022.

3. NEASC, as part of its accreditation review, conducted an assessment of financial capacity. The applicant has satisfied NEASC's requirements, and the Agency recommends that the Board support NEASC's findings of adequate financial capacity, for the purposes of State Board approval.
4. The Riverside School received accreditation by NEASC in 2012, a year after the State Board of Education had granted renewal of independent school approval for five years through June 30, 2016.
5. The Riverside School has a policy on the prevention and reporting of harassment, hazing, and bullying which is as stringent as the Agency's model policy.

COST IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Finance Analyst
479-8545