

From: Elizabeth Oberreiter <eoberreiter@acs-wasc.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2024 10:23 PM

To: Lovett, Tom <Tom.Lovett@vermont.gov>

Cc: Clayton J. Petry <claytonjpetry@ncpsa.org>

Subject: Addendum

Hi Tom,

I would like to add this as well:

ASC WASC will incorporate a Vermont-specific addendum into its accreditation process, allowing Vermont's independent schools to align with the state's educational standards while retaining the benefits of independent accreditation. Vermont's Rule Series 2200, set by the State Board of Education, outlines specific criteria for independent schools, with a focus on areas such as diversity, equity, inclusion, and overall educational quality. This Vermont-specific addendum will bring these values directly into ACS WASC's accreditation framework/process.

With this addition, ACS WASC visiting committee teams will review Vermont schools based on WASC's rigorous standards of educational quality along with Vermont's unique criteria, which emphasize the importance of inclusive, equitable, culturally responsive learning environments and other state educational standards. This approach ensures that Vermont's independent schools meet the state's requirements while preserving the flexibility and autonomy that come with independent accreditation.

Incorporating Vermont-specific standards into its accreditation process reflects ACS WASC's commitment to supporting high-quality education across diverse educational settings. This alignment provides Vermont's independent schools with a structured approach to creating environments that prioritize diversity, equity, and student well-being, alongside meeting accreditation expectations. By integrating Vermont's values within ACS WASC's process, Vermont schools can maintain accreditation while aligning with the state's vision for inclusive and culturally responsive education.

This collaboration between ACS WASC and the Vermont State Board of Education will create a meaningful connection between WASC's comprehensive standards/criteria and Vermont's distinctive educational priorities. Vermont's independent schools will be reviewed not only for academic rigor but also for their commitment to promoting safe, supportive environments that promote a sense of belonging for all students.

Through this collaborative framework, ACS WASC upholds its high educational standards alongside Vermont's specific goals for independent schools, ensuring that these schools fulfill both WASC's accreditation benchmarks and Vermont's commitment to providing equitable, high-quality learning experiences. This approach enriches Vermont's educational environment by supporting independent schools in meeting both national standards and Vermont's specific priorities. It ensures that schools align with the broader expectations of quality education while also embracing Vermont's commitment to creating inclusive, student-centered learning spaces that welcome and support every student. Through this process, independent schools in Vermont can uphold high standards while promoting a learning culture that reflects the values important to Vermont's communities and families.

Thanks Tom,

Liz

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Oberreiter

Vice President, Domestic Schools and Programs

ACS, Western Association of Schools and Colleges

533 Airport Boulevard, Suite 200

Burlingame, CA 94010

(626) 290-2126

eoberreiter@acswasc.org

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