

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant an amendment to enable Vermont Commons School, So. Burlington, VT, to serve students in grades 6-12, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification that the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) granted accreditation to the school for grades 6-12?

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants an amendment to enable Vermont Commons School, So. Burlington, VT, to serve students in grades 6-12, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification that the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) granted accreditation to the school for grades 6-12. This approval is through October 1, 2016, 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. Vermont Commons School is an approved independent day school currently approved to serve students in grades 7-12. On May 18, 2016, the Agency received a request to add grade 6, with a letter of confirmation from NEASC that the school is now accredited for grades 6-12.
2. Vermont Commons School was accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) in November of 2011. NEASC is recognized by the Vermont State Board of Education for accrediting purposes per State Board of Education Rule #7320. Vermont Commons School is scheduled to file a Five-year report in the fall of 2016, at which time the school's accreditation will be reviewed.

3. The State Board of Education granted renewal of independent school approval to Vermont Commons School on January 17, 2012 through October 1, 2016.

COST IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Finance Analyst
479-8545