

AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
Barre, Vermont

**TEAM:** School Finance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to the Thaddeus Stevens School, Lyndon Center, 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 Thaddeus Stevens School, Lyndon Center, 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 five years, through June 30, 2021, 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. Thaddeus Stevens School is an independent day school for students in grades K-8. The School's mission and the principles of the First Amendment Schools Network provide the overarching goals for the curriculum and the school culture. Incorporating the concepts of integrated curricula, flexible scheduling, and individual attention, the School recognizes that success fosters success and that authentic self-esteem is acquired through authentic achievement. Thus the School focuses on building legitimate student achievement with ongoing student assessments. The faculty and staff commit themselves to the belief that students can learn and achieve at high levels when given the skills and the opportunity.
2. Thaddeus Stevens 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 decennial evaluation visit scheduled for 2021.

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. Thaddeus Stevens 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