

AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to Vermont Academy, Saxtons River, VT, to serve students in grades 9-12, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification of continued New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of independent school approval to Vermont Academy, Saxtons River, VT, to serve students in grades 9-12, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification of continued New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation. The term of this approval is through October 1, 2023, to coincide with the school's accreditation period.

That the school within five days reports 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 Academy is an independent, coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for students in grades 9-12. The school was established in 1876.
2. Vermont Academy is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which is an accrediting body recognized by the State Board of Education pursuant to SBE Rule 7320. Other than routine annual reports, the next major responsibility regarding accreditation will be the Five-Year Report scheduled for 2023.
3. NEASC, as part of its accreditation review, assessed financial capacity. The applicant has satisfied NEASC's requirements, and the Agency recommends that the State Board support NEASC's findings of adequate financial capacity for the purposes of State Board approval.
4. Vermont Academy has a policy on the prevention and reporting of harassment, hazing, and bullying which is as stringent as the Agency's model policy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: None

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Fiscal and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator