



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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April 26, 2021

Jocelyn Young
Principal
Northwood School
511 1st New Hampshire Turnpike
Northwood, NH 03261

Dear Ms. Young:

The Commission on Public Schools, at its March 8, 2021 meeting, reviewed the Initial Accreditation Report from the recent visit to Northwood School and voted to award the school Initial Accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission wishes to commend the following:

- the use of strong, existing values and beliefs, especially as defined in the Northwood School's strategic plan, to guide teaching and learning
- the clear foundation for future development of the school's core values, beliefs, and vision of the graduate provided through the strategic plan
- the clear standards-based focus for the development of curriculum documents
- the construction of a clear, purposeful, and common curricular format using the *Understanding by Design* model
- the use of tools, such as Webb's Depth of Knowledge model, to guide curriculum development
- the personalized instruction provided to students in a variety of ways
- the wide and varied use of formative assessment, especially during instructional time, to adjust instruction and meet the needs of students
- the opportunities to engage in professional discourse to improve instruction
- the use of data from formative and summative assessments to improve instructional practices
- the variety of specific and timely feedback provided to students
- the autonomy of the various professional committees, which enables teachers to define and pursue the professional learning that they find most relevant
- the proactive approach and responsiveness of support services to the needs of individual students and families
- the successful use of long-range planning for making coordinated, informed decisions

The Commission was pleased to note three (3) of the six (6) Foundational Elements in the Standards for Accreditation have been met by the school. The school will continue to work on the following as Priority Areas for Growth as part of the Accreditation Process:

- the school has a written document describing its core values, beliefs about learning, and vision of the graduate (1.2a)
- there is a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments across the school (2.2a)
- the school has a current school improvement/growth plan (3.1a)

The Commission requests a First Report of Progress and Planning by October 1, 2021. The Commission requests that the school's revised School Improvement/Growth Plan is included with the First Report of Progress and Planning.

All Accredited schools must submit a required Three-Year Report of Progress and Planning, which, in the case of the Northwood School, is due on October 1, 2023. Information about the proper preparation of the Three-Year Report of Progress and Planning will be provided to the school in the near future.

The Commission congratulates the school administration and faculty for completing the Initial Accreditation visit. The next step will be the Follow-Up Process, during which the school will continue to implement a School Growth/Improvement Plan, based on the school's Priority Areas aligned with the Standards for Accreditation and report progress toward implementing those priorities. The Commission's Follow-Up Seminars should help you and your faculty develop a schedule for implementing your Growth/Improvement Plans. In addition, the Commission's website, cpemhs.neasc.org, includes information on Follow-Up procedures.

The school's Accreditation status will be reviewed when the Commission considers the First Report of Progress and Planning. The school's First Report of Progress and Planning should be submitted only by the principal through the Accreditation Portal by clicking on the green "Mark Progress Report Complete" button. As well, please notify the Commission office immediately of any changes in the names of the principal and/or superintendent, along with their corresponding e-mail addresses, by submitting this information electronically to cpems-air@neasc.org.

Sincerely,

George H. Edwards

George H. Edwards

Kathleen A. Montagano

Kathleen A. Montagano

GHE/KAM/jaf

cc: Monica Henson, Interim Superintendent, NH SAU #44
Brian Winslow, Chairperson, Northwood School Board
Edward G. Wilkins, Chair of the Visiting Team
Sharon Cournoyer, Chair, Commission on Public Schools