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Sent: Monday, October 14, 2024 5:09 PM

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

Cc: Mark Bugbee <mbugbee@nnec.org>; Marlene Alvarez <malvarez@atlanticunion.org>; Lileth Coke <lcoke@atlanticunion.org>

Subject: Application for Recognition of the Adventist Accrediting Association as an

October 15, 2024

Vermont Board of Education

Attention: Tom Lovett

Subject: Application for Recognition of the Adventist Accrediting Association as an Accrediting Agency in Vermont

Dear Members of the Vermont Board of Education,

The Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) respectfully requests recognition as an accrediting agency in the state of Vermont per Section 2227 of Vermont's education law. The AAA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that operates as the accrediting body for all educational institutions within the Seventh-day Adventist Church system.

The AAA has a long and rich history of ensuring quality and accountability in education, dating back to its establishment in 1928. We are committed to upholding high standards and best practices in the field of accreditation, as demonstrated by our membership in the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA). The AAA is an active and engaged member of NCPSA, serving on its Executive Board and participating in its peer review processes.

The AAA meets all the requirements outlined in Section 2227(a) of Vermont's education law, as detailed below:

1. **Continuous Operation for at least five years:** The AAA has been operating continuously since 1928, far exceeding the 5-year requirement.

2. **Membership in a Peer Organization:** The AAA is a founding member of NCPSA and actively participates in its peer review and continuous improvement initiatives.
3. **Peer Review Process:** The AAA utilizes a robust peer review process that includes leadership evaluations of similar school types, ensuring that diverse perspectives and expertise inform our accreditation decisions.
4. **Staff and Peer Reviewer Training:** The AAA provides appropriate training for all staff and peer reviewers involved in the accreditation process, ensuring they have the knowledge and skills to conduct thorough and effective evaluations.
5. **Publicly Accessible Standards:** The AAA accredits schools based on publicly accessible, documented standards that encompass all the areas listed in Section 2227(a)(5), including mission, governance, finance, program, community, administration, development, admissions, personnel, health and safety, child and student protection, facilities, student services, school culture, and residential life (as applicable).
6. **On-site Visits:** The AAA conducts comprehensive on-site visits of all schools seeking accreditation, ensuring our evaluations are based on first-hand observations and interactions with the school community.
7. **Curriculum Requirements:** The AAA requires that schools seeking accreditation maintain a research-informed curriculum, document individual student progress, and have mechanisms for monitoring, assessing, and providing feedback on student learning.
8. **Equitable and Inclusive Community:** The AAA requires that schools seeking accreditation promote an equitable, just, and inclusive community of adults and students, foster a culture of learning, and inspire students to respect and value diversity in its many forms.
9. **Ongoing Reviews and Reports:** The AAA conducts ongoing and periodic reviews throughout the accreditation cycle and provides interim reports sufficient to meet the informational needs of the Vermont Board of Education.
10. **Understanding of and Compliance with State Laws:** The AAA is committed to demonstrating substantial understanding and familiarity with Vermont's state laws, policies, and regulations that apply to approved independent schools. We will work closely with the Agency of Education to ensure our accreditation processes align with Vermont's requirements.

11. Sharing of Evidence: The AAA agrees to review and share with the Agency of Education evidence of practices and compliance with Vermont's state-specific requirements during the initial and interim stages of an approved independent school's accreditation period.

The AAA is dedicated to supporting schools in their pursuit of continuous improvement and providing a high-quality education for all students. Our accreditation processes are rigorous, comprehensive, and aligned with best practices in the field. We are confident that we can serve as a reliable authority on the quality of education offered by schools in Vermont.

We have attached supporting documentation that provides further details on our accreditation standards, processes, and compliance measures. We welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have and to provide additional information as needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Headquarters North American AAA

Director.of.Secondary.and.Accreditation

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