

AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
Barre, Vermont

**TEAM:** School Finance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to Grace Christian School, Bennington, VT, to serve students in grades K-12, 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 Grace Christian School, Bennington, VT, to serve students in grades K-12, 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.**

**Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Department 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. Grace Christian School's mission is partnering with parents to provide an exceptional spiritual and academic environment consistent with Biblical Truth. Grace Christian School serves students in grades K-12.
2. Grace Christian 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 routine annual reports, 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 application 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. Grace Christian 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:**

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