

AGENCY OF EDUCATION

Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, 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 on December 10, 2015?

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of independent school approval to St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, 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 on December 10, 2015. This approval is for two years through June 30, 2018, 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. St. Francis Xavier School is a private, Roman Catholic school educating students in grades preK-8. As a parish school, the pastor is the canonical administrator and delegates the administrative educational and operational responsibilities to the administrative team of the school. St. Francis Xavier School works with the Diocesan School Board, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools and the Diocesan School Office.
2. St. Francis Xavier 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 2018.
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 purpose of State Board approval.

4. St. Francis Xavier School has a policy on prevention/reporting of harassment, hazing, and bullying that is as stringent as the Agency's model policy.

COST IMPLICATIONS: none

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