

Krista Huling Chair, Vermont State Board of Education. Vermont Agency of Education 19 No. Main Street, Suite 402 Barre, VT 05641

Dear Ms. Huling,

The Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE) would like to make application to be a recognized accreditor of private schools in the state of Vermont.

We're aware that the state has a specific approval process for private schools that are accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). We are hoping that Vermont's approval process will similarly recognize independent elementary and middle schools in the state that have achieved AISNE accreditation.

AISNE has school members that are independent elementary and middle schools in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont for more than 30 years and the association currently has more than 70 accredited schools in New England.

AISNE school accreditation is a multi-year, standards-based process that involves rigorous self-study and a peer-review onsite visit. The integrity of AISNE's accreditation process is evidenced by our association's membership in the International Council Advancing Independent School Accreditation (ICAISA), formerly the Commission on Accreditation of the National Association of Independent Schools. ICAISA provides quality assurance and accountability for the accreditation programs of its 20 independent school member associations.

We look forward to beginning this dialogue with you and are eager to support Vermont's State Board of Education in recognizing the quality of independent schools in the state.

In partnership in our service to children and families,

Claire Leheny

Executive Director