

AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
Barre, Vermont

**TEAM:** School Finance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to **Forrest Ward Memorial School**, Bennington, VT, to serve students in grades K-8, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification of continued Northern New England Conference (NNEC) accreditation?

**SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the State Board of Education grants renewal of independent school approval to Forrest Ward Memorial School, Bennington, VT, to serve students in grades K-8, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification of continued Northern New England Conference (NNEC) accreditation. This approval is for five years through June 30, 2024; and**

**This approval is conditional on the requirement that the school reports to the Agency of Education within five business days 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. Forrest Ward Memorial School is a Seventh-day Adventist day school. Forrest Ward Memorial School serves students in grades K-8.
2. Forrest Ward Memorial School is accredited by the Northern New England Conference (NNEC) of Seventh-Day Adventist. NNEC is a State Board of Education recognized accrediting agency and listed in Rule 7320 of the State Board's Manual of Rules and Practices. The school will be expected to provide regular written reports to NNEC throughout the accreditation period.
3. NNEC, as part of its accreditation review, assessed financial capacity. The applicant has satisfied NNEC's requirements of financial viability and sustainability.

4. Forrest Ward Memorial School has a policy on the prevention and reporting of harassment, hazing, and bullying which is as stringent as the Agency's model policy.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** none

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

Cassandra Ryan, Fiscal and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator