

AGENCY OF EDUCATION

Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to Stratton Mountain School, Stratton, VT, to serve students in grades 7-12, based upon the review by the Agency of Education and notification of continued New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of independent school approval to Stratton Mountain School, Stratton, VT, to serve students in grades 7-12, 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 October 1, 2022, to coincide with NEASC's 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. Stratton Mountain School is a co-educational boarding school providing a college preparatory academic program along with intensive training for ski racing. The school began operation in 1972. The school serves students in grades 7-12.
2. Stratton Mountain School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). NEASC is a State Board of Education recognized accrediting agency, and listed in rule 7320 of the Board Manual of Rules and Practices. Other than routine annual reports, the next major responsibility regarding accreditation will be the decennial evaluation visit scheduled for 2022.
3. NEASC, as part of its accreditation review, assessed financial capacity. The applicant has satisfied NEASC's requirements, and the Agency recommends that the State Board support NEASC's findings of adequate financial capacity for the purposes of State Board approval.

4. The Stratton Mountain 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:

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