

AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
Barre, Vermont

**TEAM:** School Finance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to The Putney School, Putney, VT, to serve students in grades 9-12, 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 The Putney School, Putney, VT, to serve students in grades 9-12, 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 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)

1. The Putney School is a private boarding and day school for students in grades 9-12. The school began in 1935 and was one of the first co-educational independent schools in the United States. Putney is committed to developing each student's full intellectual, artistic and physical potential. Putney students are encouraged to challenge themselves intellectually, to pursue rigorous learning for its own sake, to actively participate in and appreciate the arts, to contribute meaningfully to the work program that sustains the school community and the farm on which it is located, to engage in vigorous athletics, and to develop a social consciousness and world view that will provide the foundation for life-long moral and intellectual growth.
2. The Putney School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC), which is recognized by the Vermont State Board of Education for accrediting purposes per State Board of Education Rule #7320. Other than annual reports, the next major responsibility regarding accreditation will a five-year interim evaluation report.

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 Putney 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