

AGENCY OF EDUCATION

Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to the Mater Christi School, Burlington, 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?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grant renewal of independent school approval to the Mater Christi School, Burlington, 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. This approval is for three years through June 30, 2020 to coincide with the 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. Mater Christi is a private Catholic school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Northeast Community, serving students in kindergarten through grade eight. The school is committed to providing a quality, values-centered education in the Catholic tradition that prepares students for the complexities of our diverse world.
2. Mater Christi School is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and 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 2020.
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 purposes of State Board approval.

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

COST IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Finance Analyst
479-8545