
“The accreditation process we have developed over the years is a major vehicle that can and should be used to bring about educational improvement at all levels of schooling. NEASC is poised to be a partner in the effort to reform and improve education in the region.”

Jacob Ludes, III
Executive Director/CEO



Singular Role

Founded in 1885, the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc., is the nation's oldest accrediting association, serving more than 2,000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities in the six states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont and American/international schools in more than sixty nations worldwide. It is characterized by a commitment to establishing and maintaining high standards for all levels of education (pre-K to doctoral level) within one association. Since 1990, it remains the only one of the nation's six accrediting agencies to promote collaborations for educational improvement beyond the region. Through the office of the Executive Director, the Association contributes to public policy and conducts research with a variety of national and international groups and develops assessment processes for other educational providers.

Current Profile

Accredits 1,923 total members.

Accredits 255 postsecondary, member institutions.

Accredits 159 American/international schools in 65 nations around the world.

Accredits 146 public elementary and middle level schools.

Accredits approximately 655 public secondary schools in the six-state region.

Accredits 89 vocational-technical schools in New England.

Accredits 619 private, independent schools throughout New England.

Accreditation: A Process of Systematic Improvement

Accreditation relies on a voluntary, peer review process, engaging some 3,400 educators in the region on hundreds of reviews in any year. A self-study process of 12-18 months is undertaken by schools and colleges in regular review cycles. The goals are effectiveness, improvement and public assurance. Unlike popular magazines, this does not involve ranking institutions, but rather establishes a level of acceptable quality for all accredited institutions.

Partners in the Renewal Process

Commission standards are comprehensive, focusing on virtually every aspect of an institution's operation. They often are accepted in substitution for minimal standards set by state departments of education. Standards are reviewed periodically (generally every five years) and are interconnected (e.g., school curriculum and student assessment), reflecting the voluntary, independent nature of accreditation combined with recognition of pertinent state and federal regulations.

The process is standards-based, similar to reform initiatives emerging nationwide that contribute to systematic improvement and renewal. It remains continuous.

NEASC serves as a clearinghouse for the public and its policy-makers in a variety of roles. Professional staff is available to ensure full participation at all levels ranging from accreditation to educational partnerships that strengthen education. The Association is private, non-profit, and thus uniquely positioned to work with other organizations on a regional, national and international scale focusing on improving education.

NEASC

New England
Association of
Schools &
Colleges, Inc.

*Improving
Education through
Accreditation
since 1885*



**Toward A Second
Century of Accreditation**

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Selected Publications

On-line versions of NEASC publications and documents are available (see <http://www.neasc.org/neasc/public.htm>).

Membership Roster, Cost: \$10.00

The Report, the semi-annual newsletter for members

Institutional Assessment Portfolios Project Reports. Funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Davis Educational Foundation, this IAP Project involved 10 postsecondary institutions. It represents the latest of many Commission on Institutions of Higher Education initiatives to undertake successful assessment activities including CIHE's "Policy on Institutional Effectiveness." See project resources and materials at: <http://www.neasc.org/cihe/assessment> or contact CIHE's Robert Froh, rfroh@neasc.org.

<http://www.neasc.org>