



2020 - A VISION FOR LEARNING

STANDARDS for Accreditation

for Public Elementary, Middle and High Schools seeking Accreditation in 2020

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Commission on Public Schools

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Standards for Accreditation

Introduction

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Public Schools requires member schools to demonstrate alignment with the Standards for Accreditation. The revised Standards for Accreditation, effective for all schools in 2020, are streamlined into five core Standards intended to promote an effective learning organization with the capacity to meet the needs of all students through continuous reflection and growth.

Standards for Accreditation

Standard 1 LEARNING CULTURE	Learning Culture promotes shared values and responsibility for achieving the school's vision.
Standard 2 STUDENT LEARNING	Student Learning practices maximize the impact of learning for each student.
Standard 3 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES	Professional Practices ensure that practices and structures are in place to support and improve student learning.
Standard 4 LEARNING SUPPORT	Learning Support ensures that the school has appropriate systems to support student learning and well-being.
Standard 5 LEARNING RESOURCES	Learning Resources ensure that the school has the resources necessary to meet the learning needs of all students.

Principles of Effective Practice

Each Standard includes Principles of Effective Practice, which define the expectations for that Standard. Schools will be asked to reflect on and report their progress in aligning with the Principles for each Standard.

Descriptors of Effective Practice

Descriptors of Effective Practice serve as examples of what each Principle looks like in practice in a school. Descriptors are guidance or benchmarks to assist schools in aligning with each Principle.

Foundational Elements

At a minimum, Accredited schools must align with each of the Foundational Elements. The Foundational Elements represent essential building blocks for each Standard. Schools that are not yet aligned with the Foundational Elements are expected to prioritize work to ensure alignment with those Elements.

Standards for Accreditation	Foundational Elements
Standard 1 LEARNING CULTURE	<p>The school community provides a safe environment.</p> <p>The school has a written document describing its core values, beliefs about learning, and vision of the graduate.</p>
Standard 2 STUDENT LEARNING	<p>There is a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments across the school.</p>
Standard 3 PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES	<p>The school has a current school improvement/growth plan.</p>
Standard 4 LEARNING SUPPORT	<p>The school has intervention strategies designed to support learners.</p>
Standard 5 LEARNING RESOURCES	<p>The school site and plant support the delivery of curriculum, programs, and services.</p>

Standard 5: Learning Resources

The school has adequate and appropriate time, funding, and facilities to support the realization of its core values, beliefs about learning, and vision of the graduate. The school and school community provide time, funding, and facilities for student learning and support; teacher collaboration and professional growth; and full implementation of curricular and co-curricular programs in the school. The school has appropriate plans, protocols, and infrastructure in place to ensure consistent delivery of its curriculum, programs, and services.

PRINCIPLES of Effective Practice	DESCRIPTORS of Effective Practice
<p>5.1</p> <p>The community and district provide school buildings and facilities that support the delivery of high-quality curriculum, programs, and services.</p>	<p>The community and district provide school buildings and facilities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure a safe, secure, and healthy environment that supports the diversity of the student body • are adequately sized for the school community • have appropriate spaces to support student learning and the curriculum • are clean and well maintained • have appropriate mechanical systems • meet all applicable federal and state laws and are in compliance with local fire, health, and safety regulations.
<p>FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENT 5.1a</p> <p>The community and district provide school buildings and facilities that support the delivery of curriculum, programs, and services.</p>	<p>The community and district provide school buildings and facilities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure a safe, secure, and healthy environment • are clean and well maintained • meet all applicable federal and state laws and are in compliance with local fire, health, and safety regulations.
<p>5.2</p> <p>The school/district provides time and financial resources to enable researched-based instruction, professional growth, and the development, implementation, and improvement of school programs and services.</p>	<p>The school/district provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time during the school day organized to support research-based instruction, professional collaboration among educators, learning needs of all students, and student programs and services • sufficient time and resources for professional development, evaluation and revision of the curriculum, and improvement of instruction using assessment results and current research.

<p>5.3</p> <p>The community and the district's governing body provide adequate and dependable funding to fully implement the curriculum, including co-curricular programs and other learning opportunities.</p>	<p>The community and the district's governing body provide dependable funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a wide range of school programs and services • sufficient professional and support staff to ensure appropriate class sizes and teacher load • sufficient equipment and technology • resources to support library services and information technology • a full range of technology support • sufficient instructional materials and supplies • proper maintenance and replacement of furniture, technology, and equipment.
<p>5.4</p> <p>The school/district has short-term and long-term plans to address the capital and maintenance needs of its building and facilities.</p>	<p>The school/district develops and maintains plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure the maintenance and repair of the building and facilities • schedule regular maintenance and repair of the building and facilities • ensure safe, secure, and adequate building and facilities/campus • address enrollment changes and staffing needs • provide sufficient technology • implement capital improvements.
<p>5.5</p> <p>The school has infrastructure and protocols in place to ensure effective responses in crisis situations.</p>	<p>The school maintains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protocols to ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the event of an emergency • written documentation that describes responses for various situations • a positive working relationship and emergency protocols between the school and emergency services personnel • a school crisis team that meets regularly to review and revise protocols.