



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
Commission on Public Schools

Director for Accreditation and School Improvement

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August 21, 2023

Julie Melvina Stevenson
Principal
Hanover High School
41 Lebanon Street
Hanover, NH 03755

Dear Ms. Stevenson:

The Commission on Public Schools, at its June 25, 2023 meeting, reviewed the report from the recent Collaborative Conference visit to Hanover High School and voted to award the school continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission was impressed with many of the programs and services and wishes to commend the following:

- the 50-year history and continued existence of the school's Council which serves as a democratic vehicle for student, staff, and community engagement in decision-making
- the strong commitment to shared decision-making in the school
- the availability of a wide array of course offerings
- the dedication to the personalization of student learning
- the ability of students to make choices in their learning journey
- the faculty's effort to provide opportunities for inquiry, problem-solving, and higher-order thinking skills
- the use of a wide range of assessment strategies to allow students to demonstrate their learning
- the accessibility to and thoughtful use of technology to support learning
- the staff's commitment to prioritizing student needs and interests with varied course options
- the school's commitment to promoting relationships with the community, businesses, and higher education institutions that support authentic student learning experiences
- the availability for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom walls in programs like the March Intensive, Senior Bridges Project, and community volunteer opportunities
- the intervention strategies that support all students' academic, social, and emotional success such as academic

The Commission was pleased to note four (4) of the six (6) Foundational Elements in the Standards for Accreditation have been met by the school. The Commission noted that the following Foundational Elements have not been met by the school and have been included as a Priority Area for Growth:

- there is a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments across the school (2.2a)
- the school has a current school growth/improvement plan (3.1a)

The Commission was also pleased to see that the Collaborative Conference visiting team confirmed the following Priority Areas for Growth. These Priority Areas for Growth should be used by the school as the basis for its School Growth/Improvement Plan:

- to make a more deliberate practice of employing our school's agreed-upon core values in all decision-making at the school level and in overarching district policy. (1.2)
- create a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments. (2.2, 2.2a)
- establish a formal Growth/School Improvement Plan. (3.1, 3.1a)
- develop and implement a plan to manage the increasing mental health needs of the school community, both students and staff, to help students and staff achieve a life balance that is integral to well-being. (1.1, 1.3, 4.1)

The Commission congratulates the school administration and faculty for completing the first phases of the Accreditation program: the Self-Reflection and the Collaborative Conference visit. The next step will be the development, submission, and implementation of the School Growth/Improvement Plan. Once the School Growth/Improvement Plan has been completed it should be submitted to the Commission office by email to cpssreports@neasc.org. Please submit the plan to the office no later than November 1, 2023. Additional information and a School Growth/Improvement Plan template can be found in the Commission's *Accreditation Handbook* available on the website at <https://www.neasc.org/resources-schools-public>.

The school is scheduled to host its Decennial Accreditation Visit. The dates established for the visit are March 30, 2025-April 2, 2025. The focus of the decennial visit will be on the school's implementation of the Priority Areas for Growth as included in the School Growth/Improvement Plan.

The school's accreditation status will be reviewed when the Commission considers the Decennial Accreditation Report. As well, please notify the Commission office immediately of any changes in the names of the principal and/or superintendent along with their corresponding e-mail addresses by submitting this information electronically to cpss-air@neasc.org.

Sincerely,



Alyson M. Geary

AMG /mv

Julie Melvina Stevenson
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cc: Jay Badams, Superintendent, SAU #70
Richard Johnson, Jr., Chair, Dresden School Board
Marlon Austin, School Approval Office, NH Department of Education
Paul R. Mangelinkx, Chair of the Visiting Team