



Founded In 1885

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Director
JANET D. ALLISON
direct line (781) 541-5418
jallison@neasc.org

Celebrating 125 years 1885-2010
Demanding Excellence, Honoring Difference

Associate Director
ANN L. ASHWORTH
direct line (781) 541-5441
ashworth@neasc.org

Executive Assistant to the Director
DONNA M. SPENCER-WILSON
direct line (781) 541-5419
dswilson@neasc.org

August 25, 2010

Associate Director
GEORGE H. EDWARDS
direct line (781) 541-5435
gedwards@neasc.org

Marinel McGrath
Superintendent
Andover Public Schools
36 Bartlett Street
Andover, MA 01810

Associate Director
EDWARD J. GALLAGHER, III
direct line (781) 541-5422
egallagher@neasc.org

Dear Dr. McGrath:

We have enclosed a copy of a letter indicating that Andover High School will be evaluated on October 28, 2012 through October 31, 2012.

The faculty and administration are just beginning the school's Self-Study, the most important phase of the Commission's evaluation process, in preparation for the decennial evaluation visit. This Self-Study should take approximately two to three semesters. Schools typically commit some regular faculty meeting time and in-service days to the Self-Study, but these are usually not sufficient to complete the work that is required. For that reason, we recommend that the school board provide additional release time that can be dedicated to the Self-Study and in so doing assure the faculty that the board supports this important process.

Although it is mandatory that the school administration, faculty and support staff be directly involved in the Self-Study, there are a number of appropriate ways in which the school board, central office personnel, students, parents and community members could contribute as well. We suggest that you discuss their involvement with the school principal.

The Commission's evaluation process provides a unique opportunity for members of the school community to discuss every aspect of the school's programs and services to improve its offerings for young people. We wish to emphasize the importance of this process and offer our support as the school undertakes its Self-Study. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janet D. Allison'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Janet' being the most prominent.

Janet D. Allison

JDA/la
Enclosure

cc: Jonathan Harris, Principal, Andover High School
Dennis Forge, Chair, Andover School Committee

209 BURLINGTON ROAD, SUITE 201, BEDFORD, MA 01730-1433 | 781-271-0022 | FAX 781-271-0950
www.cpss.neasc.org



Founded in 1885

NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Director

JANET D. ALLISON
direct line (781) 541-5418
jallison@neasc.org

Celebrating 125 years 1885-2010
Demanding Excellence, Honoring Difference

Associate Director
ANN L. ASHWORTH
direct line (781) 541-5441
aashworth@neasc.org

Executive Assistant to the Director

DONNA M. SPENCER-WILSON
direct line (781) 541-5419
dswilson@neasc.org

Associate Director
GEORGE H. EDWARDS
direct line (781) 541-5435
gedwards@neasc.org

Associate Director
EDWARD J. GALLAGHER, III
direct line (781) 541-5422
egallagher@neasc.org

August 25, 2010

Jonathan Harris
Principal
Andover High School
80 Shawsheen Road
Andover, MA 01810

Dear Mr. Harris:

The school's application for its decennial evaluation visit has been processed, and we have scheduled Andover High School for a visiting committee on October 28, 2012 through October 31, 2012.

The Commission requires schools preparing for a decennial evaluation visit to invite a Commission staff member to the school at the commencement of the Self-Study. George H. Edwards, Associate Director, is the Commission staff member assigned to Andover High School. Please contact George to arrange a mutually convenient date for a staff visit at no expense to your school. The Commission staff schedules school visits in late September 2010 through Spring 2011, depending on each school's Self-Study timeline. Generally, visits for schools hosting committees in Spring 2012 will be scheduled prior to visits for schools with committees in Fall 2012.

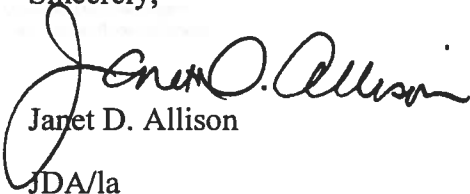
The Commission's Standards for Accreditation have been revised accompanied by changes in the Self-Study documents. Emphasis has been placed on the relationship between the school's 21st century learning expectations articulated in the school's core value and beliefs and the school's curriculum, instructional practices and assessment processes. When George visits your school, he will want to meet with the Steering Committee for an hour to discuss in detail the Standards and Self-Study requirements, meet with the chairs/co-chairs of the seven Standards Committees for an hour, address the faculty for approximately an hour, and answer questions. In preparation for the visit, members of the Steering Committee should familiarize themselves with the *Accreditation Handbook*, the faculty should review the Standards for Accreditation, and the chairs/co-chairs of the Standards Committees should review the Self-Study Guides.

Jonathan Harris
August 25, 2010
Page Two

The Self-Study typically takes approximately two to three semesters. Schools commit some faculty meeting time and in-service time to the Self-Study, but these are usually not sufficient to complete the work that is required. For that reason, we recommend additional release time be provided that can be dedicated to the Self-Study. Although it is required that the school administration, faculty, and support staff be directly involved in the Self-Study, there are a number of appropriate ways in which the board, students, parents and community members should contribute as well, which is addressed in the *Accreditation Handbook*.

The newly revised *Accreditation Handbook* for 2012 schools and an Accreditation Packet will be mailed in early September. If we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Janet D. Allison

JDA/la
Enclosure

cc: Marinel McGrath, Superintendent, Andover Public Schools ✓