



**Policy for Postponing Visits to Merging or
Consolidating Accredited Schools**

(When the merge/consolidation moves the school beyond its scheduled decennial visit
and the one year postponement allowed by the Commission)

The Commission is aware of plans within several of the dioceses of New England to merge or consolidate existing schools in various ways. Some plans call for combining two or more schools into a single school or closing two or more schools and reopening them as a new school. The Commission recognizes that such arrangements may make sense for administrative, governance, and/or financial reasons. The Commission understands that some of these mergers may come at the same time as the normal accreditation decennial visit. Schools which find themselves in this situation may ask for an extraordinary extension; complete a report explaining the circumstances; and host a small focused visiting committee, composed of a staff member and a member of the Commission, to recommend a time table for proceeding with the full accrediting process and any intermediate reports that might be required. The Commission reserves the right to determine the appropriate time table and procedure for the accreditation process. The school's accreditation will be continued until the time set by the Commission.

Once the merger or consolidation is complete, the Commission will set a date for completing the self-study and hosting a full visiting team within two years.

Adopted by the Commission on Independent Schools November 2007