

The Commission on Independent Schools

The Commission is composed of 20 heads of school and senior administrators, along with two public members. Members are elected for three-year terms (renewable once) at the December annual meeting of delegates. In drawing up a slate, the Commission reviews nominations submitted by heads of school, and takes into consideration such factors as the balance between elementary and secondary schools, representation of all six states, and a mix of types of school – single sex and coed, boarding and day, religious and secular, large and small, etc. – that reflects the membership.

Responsibilities

- Oversee the accreditation process, policies and procedures.
- Recommend changes in Standards to the Board of NEASC.
- Receive reports from visiting teams and from schools throughout the decennial cycle.
- Decide on accreditation status of schools.
- Report to the Board of NEASC concerning candidacy, initial or continued accreditation, or removal from accreditation.

Commission Meetings

- The Commission typically holds two-day meetings in February, June, and November.
- Schools are reviewed by one of two committees consisting of both elementary and secondary members.
- One member reviews the self-study, financial data and visiting team report and makes a recommendation to the Commission.
- All Commission members have access to the visiting committee report and participate in discussion.

Possible Actions Concerning Schools

- Initial or Continuing Accreditation
- Tabling of Initial Accreditation
- Continuing Accreditation on Warning (Special Report and Focused Visit within One Year)
- Probation
- Recommendation to Drop from Membership (if terms of Probation are not met)

Follow-up Actions

- Schools that fail one or more standards at the time of the visit must document their compliance within one year.
- All schools must file a 2-Year Interim Evaluation Report, addressing the major recommendations in the self-study and visiting committee report, and providing information on finances.
- All schools must file a 5-Year Interim Evaluation Report, updating the Commission on changes, reviewing compliance with the standards, presenting current long-range plans, and submitting financial information.
- The Commission may request a Special Progress Report on any subject and timetable.
- The Commission may schedule a Focused Visit to the school following a Special Progress Report.
- All schools must file an Annual Report with data on enrollment and tuition, and information on any substantive change.