

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND TERMS OF ACCREDITATION

The Board of Trustees of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in 1982 adopted a policy, which was amended in 1995, relating to Terms of Accreditation and Public Disclosure. The basic elements of that policy are as follows:

1. The Commission discontinued the practice of determining terms (years) of membership for schools, colleges and institutes following evaluations.
2. The Commission established the principle that once an institution is accredited it will have a continuous relationship with the Association subject to periodic review and reaffirmation of the institution's compliance with Standards of Membership. (There should be no question that an institution may have its accreditation terminated for just cause).
3. All institutions must experience a comprehensive review at least once every ten years.
4. The Commission is authorized to set dates for on-site reviews at intervals within the ten-year cycle if institutional circumstances so dictate.
5. All institutions are required to experience at least one focused visit in the fifth year of the decennial cycle.
6. Procedures for monitoring compliance with Commission standards also include the requirement that a **Two-Year Progress Report** and **Five-Year Focused Visit Report** be submitted.

In the annual Roster of Membership, the Association will publish the following information concerning each accredited institution:

- a. The initial year accreditation was granted
- b. The most recent comprehensive on-site review
- c. The next scheduled comprehensive on-site review
- d. An indication if the institution is on probation

In all notification letters forwarded to institutions following Commission review, the next year of scheduled review is to be clearly stated.

The Commission has long supported the policy of a continuing relationship between each school and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. It is important to understand, however, that the elimination of terms of membership is a significant change in policy. For the future, there will be a different emphasis in the deliberations of visiting committees and what is included in the confidential recommendation to the Commission concerning accreditation.

The Commission now asks the visiting committee to consider at least the following options:

1. Denial of Accreditation
2. Accreditation
3. Continued Accreditation
4. Continued Accreditation with further information requested
5. Defer Action
6. Warning
7. Probation
8. Termination of Accreditation

Other visiting committee deliberations for decennial evaluations, beyond the visiting committee evaluation report, are communicated to the Commission and eventually to the school as follows:

1. Chairs of the various subcommittees are asked to identify the most significant commendations and recommendations. (Please review Standards of Membership Checklist).
2. The Standards of Membership Checklist, completed in consultation with the various subcommittee chairs and the visiting committee as a whole, is made available to the superintendent/principal/director of the host school.

These changes in Association policy have eliminated specific terms of membership that have led to erroneous inferences in the past concerning the quality of educational offerings. Further, the Public Disclosure Policy provides for a more complete realization of the Association's responsibility for public accountability.

c: Superintendent/Principal/Director of school to be evaluated