

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Statement on Hartford Public High School Accreditation

As anticipated, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges has stated that it will no longer accredit Hartford Public High School as a comprehensive high school. The three theme academies based in the school building are recognized as new and separate schools and, as such, must apply for accreditation individually.

The theme academies are a key element in the district's reform strategy of creating a system of high performing distinctive schools of choice, where rigor, relevance and relationships are the guiding principles.

Accreditation is not necessary for admittance into college; in fact, Hartford's host magnet schools, which have a 100 percent graduation and college admission rate, are still in the process of being accredited. These include Classical Magnet, Capitol Preparatory Magnet and the Sports and Medical Sciences Academy, all of which have been selected by U.S. News and World Report as among the best high schools in America.

NEASC does not grant accreditation to new high schools until they have graduated their first class of seniors. The process could take as long as two years. In accordance with NEASC guidelines, the Nursing Academy, the Law and Government Academy and the Academy of Engineering and Green Technology can apply for candidate status with NEASC at the end of the school year when their first class of seniors has graduated. A team of staff and faculty is being formed to begin the process.

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