



MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.maynardschools.org

12 Bancroft Street

Maynard, Massachusetts 01754

Progress Made & Challenges Ahead Historical overview of the High School facility issue

What is Accreditation?

Hospitals, museums, many colleges, many private schools, and almost all public high schools voluntarily join a regional accrediting association and submit themselves to periodic peer-reviews against predetermined standards. Massachusetts public schools are re-evaluated for Accreditation every 10 years by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, known colloquially by its acronym, 'NEASC'.

Where is MHS in the process?

In the spring of 2002 MHS hosted a site visit by a team of educators from accredited school members of the New England Association of Schools & Colleges. The Visiting Team identified a series of 'commendations'; and placed MHS on 'Warning' status with 'recommendations' in several standards, not in itself unusual. Following the site-visit report, the MHS Principal and faculty must study the recommendations and develop corrective actions to address *each* recommendation. Schools then must report progress back to NEASC on a yearly, a two year and a five year schedule. In the 10th year, the process begins all over with another site-visit to maintain Accreditation.

In his Five Year Report, the Maynard High School Principal demonstrated that MHS has met **ALL** the NEASC standards based on curriculum alone,
http://www.maynardschools.org/NEASC/NEASC_Ltr.pdf

Why is MHS now on 'Probation'?

In the initial '02 report a series of facilities issues were identified, e.g. inadequacies in science labs and the library. Some corrective action was taken to address these facilities recommendations. There were some renovations in science rooms and some resources, (i.e. a full-time librarian and computers), were added to the library. Four years after the 2002 site visit, NEASC notified the District in a January '06 letter that facilities progress was inadequate; MHS was placed on 'probation' for facilities inadequate to support curriculum delivery.

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Within a month of the NEASC notification, the Superintendent proposed a Facilities Study plan to the School Committee because several of the identified facilities problems required architectural and engineering analysis to correct. The SC approved that plan; added Green Meadow to the study, and immediately advanced a warrant to the May '06 Town Meeting which funded an engineering/architectural study to provide facilities guidance.