

# NEASC Visit

## October 21-24, 2012

### Final Report



- Overview of Process
- Highlighted Findings
  - Commendations and Recommendations
- Next Steps

# Overview



- ❧ HHS was evaluated against seven standards
  - ❧ Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations
  - ❧ Curriculum
  - ❧ Instruction
  - ❧ Assessment of and for Student Learning
  - ❧ School Culture and Leadership
  - ❧ School Resources for Learning
  - ❧ Community Resources for Learning

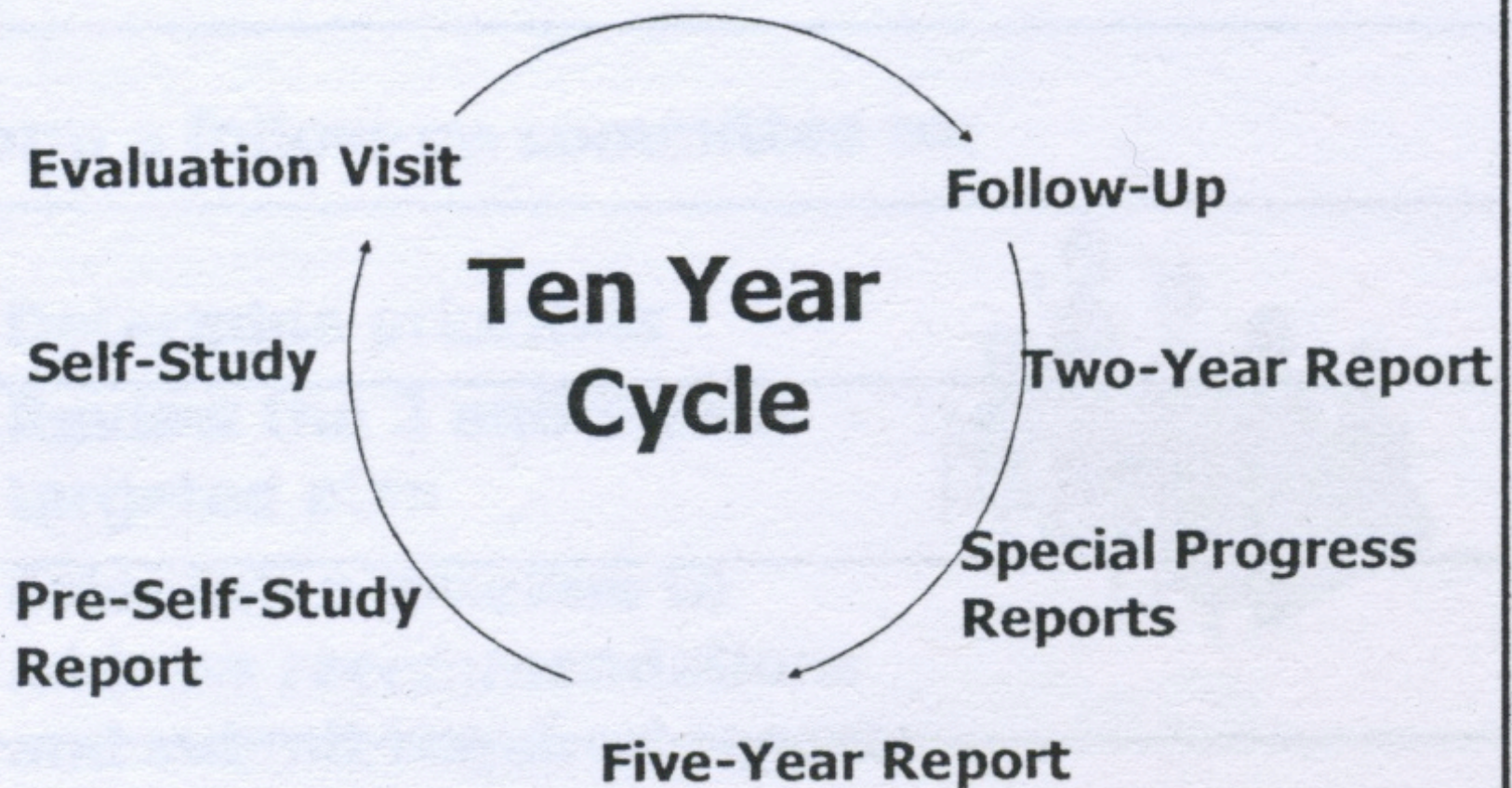
# Overview



- ❧ The accreditation program for public schools involves a threefold process:
  - ❧ the self study conducted by local professional staff,
  - ❧ the on-site evaluation conducted by the Commission's visiting committee,
  - ❧ the follow up program carried out by the school to implement the findings of its own self study and the recommendations of the visiting committee and those identified by the Commission in the Follow-Up process.



# The Accreditation Cycle



# Overview



- ❧ The visiting committee built its professional judgment on evidence collected from the following sources:
  - ❧ Review of the school's self-study materials
  - ❧ 56 hours shadowing 16 students for a half day each
  - ❧ 72 hours of classroom observation
  - ❧ Numerous informal observations in and around school
  - ❧ Tours of the facility
  - ❧ Individual meetings with 20 teachers on Sunday about their work, instructional approaches, and the assessment of student learning



# Overview



- ❧ The visiting committee built its professional judgment on evidence collected from the following sources (cont.):
  - ❧ Group meetings with students, parents, school and district administrators, and teachers.
  - ❧ The examination of student work including a selection of work collected by the school.

# Highlights



Standard	Commendations	Recommendations
Core Values and Beliefs	8	5
Curriculum	4	7
Instruction	7	11
Assessment	8	6
School Culture and Leadership	13	9
School Resources	15	8
Community Resources	10	8
<b>Totals</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>54</b>

# Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations



## **Selected Commendations**

- ❧ The school's measurable and challenging 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Expectations
- ❧ The highly student-oriented teaching staff
- ❧ The concern for student achievement that is evident throughout the school

## **Selected Recommendations**

- ❧ Create a greater understanding and appreciation of the core values and learning expectations among school staff members, students, and parents.
- ❧ Ensure that the school's core values, beliefs and 21<sup>st</sup> century learning expectations are actively reflected in the curriculum, instruction, and assessment within the school



# Curriculum



## **Selected Commendations**

- ❧ The evidence of higher-order thinking skills, inquiry, and problem solving in project-based learning within the curriculum
- ❧ The authentic learning opportunities present in the curriculum through programs such as the School-to-Work program, Internship Program, Humanities Capstone Project, and Web Marketing course

## **Selected Recommendations**

- ❧ Provide adequate funding to provide equitable services across and amongst courses and to sufficiently implement the curriculum.
- ❧ Examine schedule options to provide more equitable class sizes

# Instruction



## **Selected Commendations**

- ❧ The positive relationship between teachers and students in the classroom and throughout the campus
- ❧ Regular availability of teachers to support instruction outside of normal class time

## **Selected Recommendations**

- ❧ Provide professional development to assist teachers in taking full advantage of the state-of-the-art technology available in the school
- ❧ Develop practices that promote personalized instruction in the classroom
- ❧ Ensure teachers have adequate opportunities to be reflective practitioners who maintain expertise in their content-specific instructional practices.
- ❧ Examine the effect of increased class size on the ability to properly personalize instruction.

# Assessment of and for Student Learning



## **Selected Commendations**

- ❧ Use of the Senior Humanities Seminar course as a comprehensive assessment of the school's learning expectations.
- ❧ Individual use of formative assessment by teachers to improve instruction

## **Selected Recommendations**

- ❧ Develop common assessments, aligned with the learning expectations, to be used by all teachers who teach the same course
- ❧ Develop and fully implement school-wide rubrics with the school's expectations for student learning.



# School Culture and Leadership



## **Selected Commendations**

- ❧ A safe, positive, respectful, and supportive school culture
- ❧ A dedicated, enthusiastic teaching staff that is committed to the well-being of Hanover High School's students
- ❧ A culture where students feel a sense of community and generally love going to school at Hanover High School

## **Selected Recommendations**

- ❧ Implement a formal program in which each student has an adult mentor other than his/her guidance counselor to personalize the high school experience
- ❧ Ensure that class sizes are reasonable, equitable, and allow for individualized 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- ❧ Ensure that the principal has enough decision-making authority at the building level to lead the faculty in the initiatives necessary for achieving the school's learning expectations

# School Resources



## **Selected Commendations**

- ❧ The Student Intervention Team that works collaboratively to assist students in need
- ❧ The dedicated, supportive collegial guidance staff
- ❧ The new library that provides a variety of appropriate spaces for students and a well-developed collection of materials
- ❧ The dedicated Special Education staff

## **Selected Recommendations**

- ❧ Address the need for an appropriate number of guidance counselors
- ❧ Create common planning time for regular and special education teachers.

# Community Resources



## **Selected Commendations**

- ❧ The support from the Town of Hanover that led to the building of the new Hanover High School.
- ❧ The proposal of a budget that is based on educational need
- ❧ Faculty members' initiative to help students be successful, in spite of large class sizes
- ❧ The Hanover High School facility, which is magnificently equipped, welcomes students, and supports 21<sup>st</sup> century learning expectations.

## **Selected Recommendations**

- ❧ Develop a financially sustainable long-term plan to support technology, program/services and staffing that aligns with the school's core values
- ❧ Develop consistent processes and expectations for parent/student access to grades and student assignments through the portal
- ❧ Provide professional development to support the variety of new initiatives including technology, project-based learning, curriculum mapping, co-teaching and interdisciplinary approaches



# Accreditation



- ❧ Accreditation: A professional agreement and partnership
  - ❧ We agree to meet the Standards throughout the ten year cycle.
  - ❧ We agree to engage in continuous school improvement.
  - ❧ We agree to be monitored by NEASC
  - ❧ We agree to follow through on recommendations.

# Next Steps



- ❧ Now that the report is final we wait for a letter from the Commission on Public Secondary School regarding our accreditation status. It could take up to four months to receive this letter. There are three categories:
  - ❧ Continued Accreditation: Two-Year Progress Report
  - ❧ Continued Accreditation: Special and Two-Year Progress Report requested
  - ❧ Continued Accreditation: Placed on Warning with Special and Two-Year Progress Reports requested.

# Follow Up Process



- ❧ Form a follow-up committee to:
  - ❧ Determine priorities
  - ❧ Establish a timeline to address recommendations and submit required reports.
  - ❧ By October 1, 2014, the Two-Year Report is Due where we have to report progress on the recommendations.
  - ❧ We are expected to complete about 1/3 to 1/2 of the recommendations by October 1, 2014.
  - ❧ The remainder are expected to be completed by March 1, 2017 which is the due date of the Five Year Progress Report