



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES  
Commission on Public Schools

Director for Accreditation and School Improvement

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August 24, 2023

Matthew Mattos  
Principal  
Hanover High School  
287 Cedar Street  
Hanover, MA 02339

Dear Mr. Mattos:

The Commission on Public Schools, at its June 25, 2023 meeting, reviewed the report from the recent Collaborative Conference visit to Hanover High School and voted to award the school continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission was impressed with many of the programs and services and wishes to commend the following:

- the safe working and learning environment for staff and students where people feel respected, valued, and involved in the school community
- the library media services that support students' curricular needs in a variety of ways including direct instruction, identification of resources, and collaboration with faculty
- the proactive and direct intervention for students with chronic and acute health issues
- the strong and collaborative relationships with outside services providers for a variety of student needs
- the safe, clean, and secure facility that supports the delivery of the curriculum, programs and services, and teaching and learning
- the time and financial resources for professional development release days and revision of the curriculum, including the reinstatement of department heads to provide some support for teaching and learning by examining data
- the adequate and dependable funding that provides sufficient staff to ensure appropriate class sizes and a range of programs and services
- the protocols and detailed procedures for emergency responses
- the encouragement given to all students for them to be involved in the school community through program offerings to foster a sense of belonging
- the commitment to collaborative leadership to address the needs of students

- the encouragement provided for teacher leadership and initiative
- the positive engagement during instruction between teachers and students throughout the school

The Commission was pleased to note five of the six Foundational Elements in the Standards for Accreditation have been met by the school. The Commission noted that Foundational Element 2.2a, there is a written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments across the school, has not been met by the school and has been included as a Priority Area for Growth.

The Commission was also pleased to see that the Collaborative Conference visiting team confirmed the following Priority Areas for Growth. The following Priority Areas for Growth should be used by the school as the basis for its School Growth/Improvement Plan

- The school will adopt and embed the vision of the graduate to actively reflect it in the school culture and drive curriculum, instruction, and assessment in every classroom, promote a commitment to continuous school improvement, and guide the school's policies, procedures, and resource allocations; and define the transferable skills by specific and measurable criteria for success, which target high levels of achievement (1.2, 2.1).
- The school will complete the written curriculum in a consistent format for all courses in all departments that includes units of study with guiding/essential questions, concepts, content, skills, instructional strategies, assessment practices, and the vision of the graduate (2.2a, 2.2).
- The school will implement a comprehensive approach to active learning strategies, diversify assessment methods, including opportunities for revision of work, and provide structured time for collaboration to foster a deep understanding of research-based instruction, student agency, and differentiated instruction through ongoing and focused professional development (2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 2.8, 3.3, 3.4).
- The school will provide a range of timely, coordinated, and directive intervention strategies for all students to support their academic, social, and emotional success (4.1)
- The school will provide a full range of technological support, sufficient infrastructure, professional development, and equipment to meet the needs of learners (5.2, 5.3, 5.4).

The Commission congratulates the school administration and faculty for completing the first phases of the Accreditation program: the Self-Reflection and the Collaborative Conference visit. The next step will be the development, submission, and implementation of the School Growth/Improvement Plan. Once the School Growth/Improvement Plan has been completed it should be submitted to the Commission office by email to [cpssreports@neasc.org](mailto:cpssreports@neasc.org). Please submit the plan to the office no later than November 1, 2023. Additional information and a School Growth/Improvement Plan template can be found in the Commission's *Accreditation Handbook* available on the website at <https://www.neasc.org/resources-schools-public>.

The school is scheduled to host its Decennial Accreditation Visit from December 1, 2024-December 4, 2024. The focus of the Decennial Accreditation Visit will be on the school's implementation of the Priority Areas for Growth as included in the School Growth/Improvement Plan.

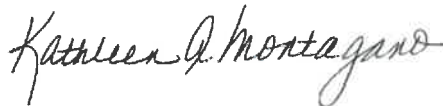
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The school's accreditation status will be reviewed when the Commission considers the Decennial Accreditation Report. Please notify the Commission office immediately of any changes in the names of the principal and/or superintendent along with their corresponding e-mail addresses by submitting this information electronically to [cpss-air@neasc.org](mailto:cpss-air@neasc.org).

Sincerely,



Alyson M. Geary



Kathleen A. Montagano

AMG/KAM/li

cc: Matthew A. Ferron, Superintendent, Hanover Public Schools  
Kristen Cervantes, Chair, Hanover School Committee  
Kevin McCaskill, Chair, Commission on Public Schools