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NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC.
COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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April 12, 2006

Daniel Smith
Principal
South Hadley High School
153 Newton Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Commission on Public Secondary Schools, at its March 26-27, 2006 meeting, reviewed the Special Progress Report of South Hadley High School and continued the school's accreditation.

The Commission was pleased to learn of the following:

- the work to date using the Understanding by Design model of curriculum work
- the development of uniform syllabi for all courses
- the clarity around the leadership for curriculum development, with an assistant superintendent and department chairs charged with this function
- the work accomplished to provide effective curricular coordination among departments in the school as well as with sending schools
- the creative solution to keeping the library open throughout the school day and after school

In addition to responding to the eight (8) recommendations highlighted in the Commission's May 16, 2005 notification letter, the school's Two-Year Progress Report should provide detailed information on action taken to address the following:

- report how the changes in the supervision and evaluation system will address how all of the courses at all levels: engage students in inquiry, problem solving and higher order thinking; emphasize breadth over depth; and provide opportunities for authentic application of knowledge and skills

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The Commission will review the school's accreditation status when it considers the Two-Year Progress Report, due October 1, 2006. Consistent with the Commission's follow-up procedures, the report should be signed by the principal and chair of the Follow-Up Committee and sent to the Commission office by certified mail, return receipt requested. As well, 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

Sincerely,



Ann L. Ashworth

ALA/mv(ms)

cc: Gus Sayer, Superintendent, South Hadley Public Schools
Edward Boisselle, Chairman, South Hadley School Committee
Martin Gray, Chair, Commission on Public Secondary Schools