

Press Release

ACCREDITATION EXTENSION GRANTED TO BRIDGEPORT'S WARREN HARDING HIGH SCHOOL BY THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC. (NEASC)

Bridgeport, CT, August 25, 2010: Bridgeport Public Schools request to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) to postpone their decennial evaluation visit to Warren Harding High School was granted last week. The administration and school officials have been working tirelessly to improve the mission and expectations for student learning, curriculum, instruction, assessment, leadership and organization.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which evaluates schools every 10 years, voted to postpone the on-site visit to Fall 2012 in order to accommodate the major restructuring of the high school. "We appreciate the understanding that NEASC is affording us. This development is a clear indication that the restart program at Harding High School is new, innovative and exciting territory for all of us," said Dr. John J. Ramos, Sr., Superintendent of Bridgeport Public Schools.

Mayor Bill Finch agreed, "I am pleased that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges honored our request to delay its October 2010 evaluation visit. With the help of Federal School Improvement Grant monies, Harding High School is making bold changes.

When NEASC visits in Fall 2012, we want to show our visitors a new Harding High School that meets NEASC-prescribed benchmarks with well-maintained facilities, positive modifications to the programs offered, as well as an increase in accountability of building personnel," said Mayor Finch.

The school's accreditation will be reviewed when the Commission on Public Secondary Schools considers the upcoming Special Progress Report, which must be submitted by school and system officials by May 1, 2011.

The Special Progress Report must provide:

- the progress-to-date on the school's restructuring plan and its impact on the daily operation of the school's educational programs and services
- a draft of the school's core values, beliefs, and 21st century learning

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) provides accreditation services for more than 2000 public and private institutions in the six state region - Pre-K through university.

The mission of the Bridgeport Public Schools and its supporting community is to graduate all students “college ready” and prepared to succeed in life. For more information about Bridgeport Public Schools visit our website at www.bridgeportedu.com.