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

Director

PAMELA GRAY-BENNETT, Ed.D. (EXT. 325)
pgraybennett@neasc.org

Deputy Director

JANET D. ALLISON (EXT. 318)
jalison@neasc.org

Associate Director

CHARLES J. MC CARTHY, JR. (EXT. 317)
cmccarthy@neasc.org

Associate Director

ANN L. ASHWORTH (EXT. 341)
aashworth@neasc.org

Assistant to the Director

ROBERTA E. KNIGHT (EXT. 319)
rknight@neasc.org

March 14, 2006

Judith A. Palmer
Superintendent
Oxford Public Schools
1 Great Hill Road
Oxford, CT 06478

Dear Judy:

I enjoyed talking with you the other day regarding planning for Oxford High School to gain accreditation. May I confirm the following:

- Consistent with our policies Oxford High School must have been in operation for one school year before it can apply for candidacy status. Since the school is schedule to open in fall 2007, it would be eligible to apply for candidacy in the fall of 2008. If an application is submitted then, the earliest that the Commission could review the school's application would be January 2009. Assuming that everything is in order, the earliest that the Board of Trustees of the Association could grant candidacy status would be March of 2009.
- Schools can hold candidacy status for three years. If Oxford High School is granted candidacy in 2009 it will have until the fall of 2012 to host a visiting team. If the school wished to host a team earlier, that would be possible.
- Since our policies do not allow new schools to gain accreditation the moment that they open their doors, no new school has ever been accredited and, thus, the lack of accreditation status for Oxford High School as a newly formed school will not be unusual.

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We have found that the loss of accreditation can sometimes negatively affect students, but have no experience with colleges penalizing students who happen to attend a newly formed school. We are always glad to talk to colleges if they have a question regarding a school's accredited status.

We look forward to receiving your school's candidacy application and, as I indicated, would be delighted to clarify any of the requirements of our Standards.

Sincerely,



Pamela Gray Bennett

Enclosure (Application for Candidacy)

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