

Self-Reflection Committee (SRC)

Oct 26, 2021

Background

The York School Department (YSD) is preparing for its 10-year cycle of accreditation through [New England Association of Schools and Colleges](#) (NEASC).

NEASC is an independent, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization that serves over 1,500 public, independent, and international learning communities in the U.S. and worldwide. Founded in 1885, NEASC has established high standards for all levels of education in the United States. A globally recognized standard of excellence, NEASC Accreditation attests to a school's high quality and integrity. All four York Schools—Village Elementary School, Coastal Ridge Elementary School, York Middle School and York High School—were fully accredited by NEASC in 2012.

The goal of accreditation is to maintain a quality education for the entire student population. The results of that assessment are then made publicly available as an indication of the quality perceived and attested to by objective professional educators.

To begin the process of accreditation, the YSD will establish two committees that have responsibilities during the accreditation process and include the Steering Committee (the committee that oversees all parts of the accreditation process) and the Self-Reflection Committee (SRC). The SRC reports to the Steering Committee, which will be chaired by School Committee Chair Dave Herbein. The SRC will engage in NEASC's prescribed, rigorous and comprehensive Self-Reflection process.

Responsibilities of the Self-Reflection Committee

In the initial Self-Reflection Phase of the accreditation process, the SRC will engage in NEASC's prescribed, rigorous and comprehensive Self-Reflection process. Primarily, the SRC is responsible for completing the Self-Reflection report

by gathering and examining sufficient evidence to evaluate YSD's alignment to the NEASC Standards. The SRC will include and draw information from the faculty, administration, students, families and other stakeholders. It will involve these audiences by providing regular progress updates.

The SRC will engage in structured analysis, self-assessment, and planning in response to NEASC's five Accreditation Standards: Learning Culture, Student Learning, Professional Practices, Learning Support, and Learning Resources. The work of the SRC will culminate in the Self-Reflection report. It is critical that the self-reflection report accurately portrays the status of the YSD's alignment with the NEASC standards.

The Self-Reflection phase and related data collection will inform YSD's plan for growth. NEASC suggests that the self-reflection process be viewed as a research and reflection step to help the school sharpen its vision and action steps for continuous improvement.

Membership

SRC committee members will include:

- Four to six administrators
- Two to three members of the community
- Five to six teachers
- One to two support staff

Anticipated Time

Selection for membership to YSD's Self-Reflection Committee takes place in November. SRC members will be trained in January 2022, and work will commence in February and conclude with the production of the Self-Reflection Report due September 2022. Overall, the time required to complete Self-Reflection will be up to six months.

Detailed Information

To read detailed information from NEASC about Self-Reflection and the SRC, please see [NEASC Self-Reflection Guide for Accreditation](#). For detailed information on the complete accreditation process, please see the [NEASC Accreditation Handbook](#).

Interest in Becoming a Member

If you are interested in serving on the Self-Reflection Committee, please email School Committee Chair Dave Herbein, dherbein@yorkschoools.org, or call the Superintendent's Office at (207) 363-3403. In response, you will receive a short questionnaire to be completed and returned by Tuesday, November 30, 2021. A small number of respondents will be contacted for an interview, and final recommendations for committee membership will be made in December 2021.