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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2017

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PHOTO CAPTION: Simsbury High School

Simsbury High School Accredited by NEASC

SIMSBURY, CT—On February 6, 2017, Simsbury High School was officially awarded continued accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

NEASC accreditation attests to a school's high quality and integrity through an ongoing cycle of review and planning, culminating in a decennial evaluation report. As part of this process, a site visit by representatives from NEASC's Commission on Public Schools (CPS) took place this past September, with 16 education professionals visiting over four days for a thorough assessment. They applied standards that were

“qualitative, challenging, and reflect current research and best practice.” The team toured the buildings, interviewed teachers, shadowed students, and reviewed the detailed reports that SHS administration and faculty had completed as part of a self-assessment process core, analyzing values and beliefs, learning expectations, curriculum, instructional and assessment practices, school culture and leadership, and school and community resources for learning.

The conclusions from the site visit were compiled in a comprehensive 110-page report that will serve as a framework for SHS’s continued growth and development over the next five years. In the report, NEASC highlighted 52 areas of commendation, including the degree of interventions and supports in place for at-risk students; the variety of opportunities in which families can actively participate in their children’s education; the emphasis on inquiry, problem solving, and higher order thinking in most SHS classes; and the degree to which the school board, superintendent, and principal are collaborative, reflexive, and constructive in achieving the school’s 21st century learning expectations.

SHS Principal Andy O’Brien expressed thanks to all who were involved for their part in making the process a success. “This report is something that we can all be proud of,” said O’Brien, “The commendations serve as validation of the great work that has been done by many, and the recommendations will be useful as we embark on our path of continuous improvement over the next five years.”

NEASC’s final report is available on the SHS website at www.simsbury.k12.ct.us/shs.

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