



NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

## Virtual Learning and NEASC Accreditation

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges supports its member schools with the many changes and innovations being developed to meet the needs of 21st century learners. The frequently asked questions (FAQs) below have been developed to help clarify possible implications of these innovations on your school's accreditation. If you have any questions about how your use of virtual learning or other substantive changes will be viewed with respect to accreditation, please contact your commission liaison at NEASC [view staff directory at [www.neasc.org/staff](http://www.neasc.org/staff)].

- **What if teaching and learning at my school is temporarily being conducted virtually for some or all of our students in response to the coronavirus pandemic?**

This has no effect on your accreditation status, which, through your ongoing growth in aligning with NEASC Standards validates your commitment and capacity to effectively adapt curriculum and services to meet student needs. We support your efforts to provide continuity of learning and support for your students and staff during the ongoing pandemic.

- **What if students at my school take approved supplemental virtual classes (conducted by an outside provider) in addition to our in-person teaching and learning?**

Not to worry. This is covered under your existing accreditation and will be reviewed as a part of your typical accreditation visits and follow-ups.

- **What if my school established a new element (such as a virtual branch campus or program) that allows students (including those outside of our geographic region) to enroll in our school from a distance?**

This change may be considered a "substantive change," requiring a substantive change report or an application for an "additional campus/element" for your accreditation. This would not include schools that have temporarily pivoted to virtual learning for students due to the coronavirus pandemic.

- **What if my school has begun offering individual virtual courses or programs (not resulting in a diploma) to students beyond our current student body?**

Please remember that NEASC does not accredit individual courses but rather the school as a whole. Schools should not represent courses they offer virtually as being accredited by NEASC.

If you have any other questions or need additional clarification you may contact George Edwards, NEASC Chief Accreditation Officer, at [gedwards@neasc.org](mailto:gedwards@neasc.org).