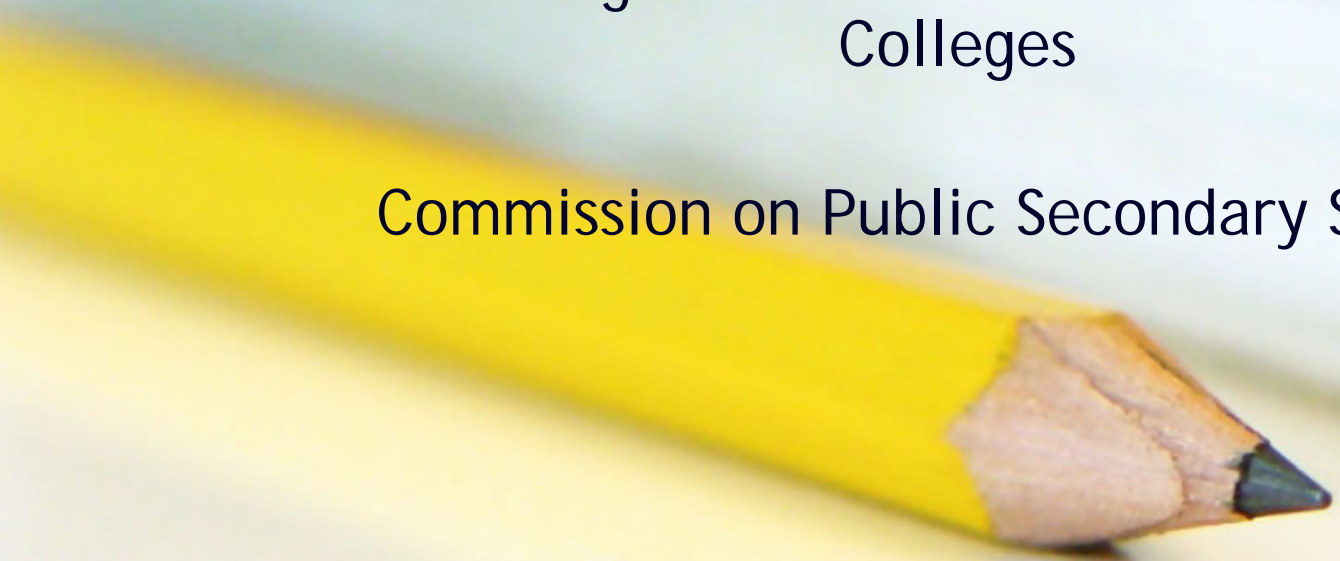


NEASC Self Study

New England Association of Schools and
Colleges

Commission on Public Secondary Schools



What Does Accreditation Mean?

- Adherence to 7 standards established by member schools regarding the systems, processes, and practices of school personnel.
- Adherence to Commission procedures and policies.
- Demonstration of school improvement based on steps to address evaluation report findings.

The Accreditation Cycle

Evaluation Visit-4 days forming judgments and drawing conclusions

Follow-Up-School efforts to address valid evaluation report recommendations.

Self-Study-A qualitative assessment of a school's strengths and needs in terms of the Standards for Accreditation

Pre-Self Study

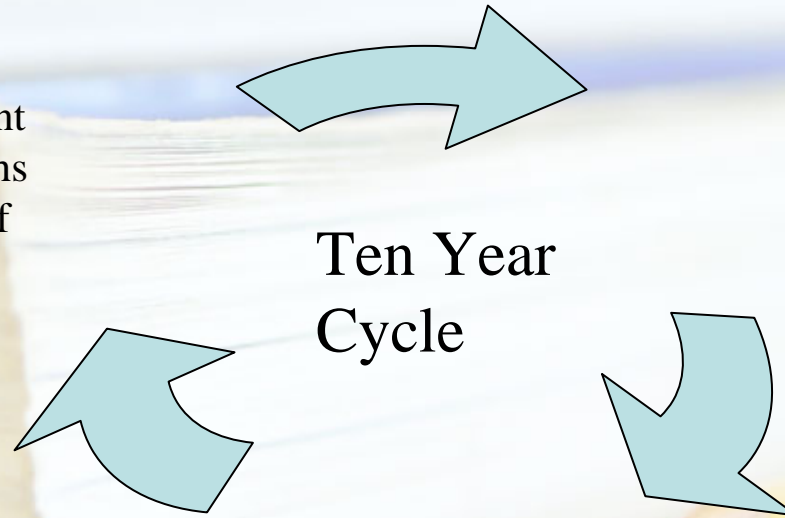
Special Progress Reports—as requested

Ten Year Cycle

Two Year Report

5 Year Report

Special Progress Reports—as requested



Preparation for the Self-Study

- File Application (late May 2008)
 - Receive letter with dates of evaluation visit (August 2008)
 - Establish Steering Committee
 - Receive materials (September 2008)
 - Schedule visit by Commission staff
 - Appoint committees
 - Develop budget
- 
- The background of the slide features a stack of books on the left and a yellow pencil lying horizontally on the right. The books are slightly out of focus, and the pencil is also blurred, creating a soft, academic atmosphere.

Steering Committee



- Composed of 5-7 highly respected, good-natured, and well-organized faculty members.
- Serve on other schools' visiting committees to gain perspective on how teams use the Self-Study.

Suggested Preparation Schedule Spring 2010 Visit

FALL 2008

Schedule staff visit

Complete School and Community profile

SPRING 2009

Begin work on Standards Essays

FALL 2009

Complete the Standards Essays

SPRING 2010

Team visit

Suggested Preparation Schedule Fall 2010 Visit

FALL 2008

Schedule staff visit

SPRING 2009

Complete School and Community profile

FALL 2009

Begin work on Standards Essays

SPRING 2010

Complete the Standards Essays

FALL 2010

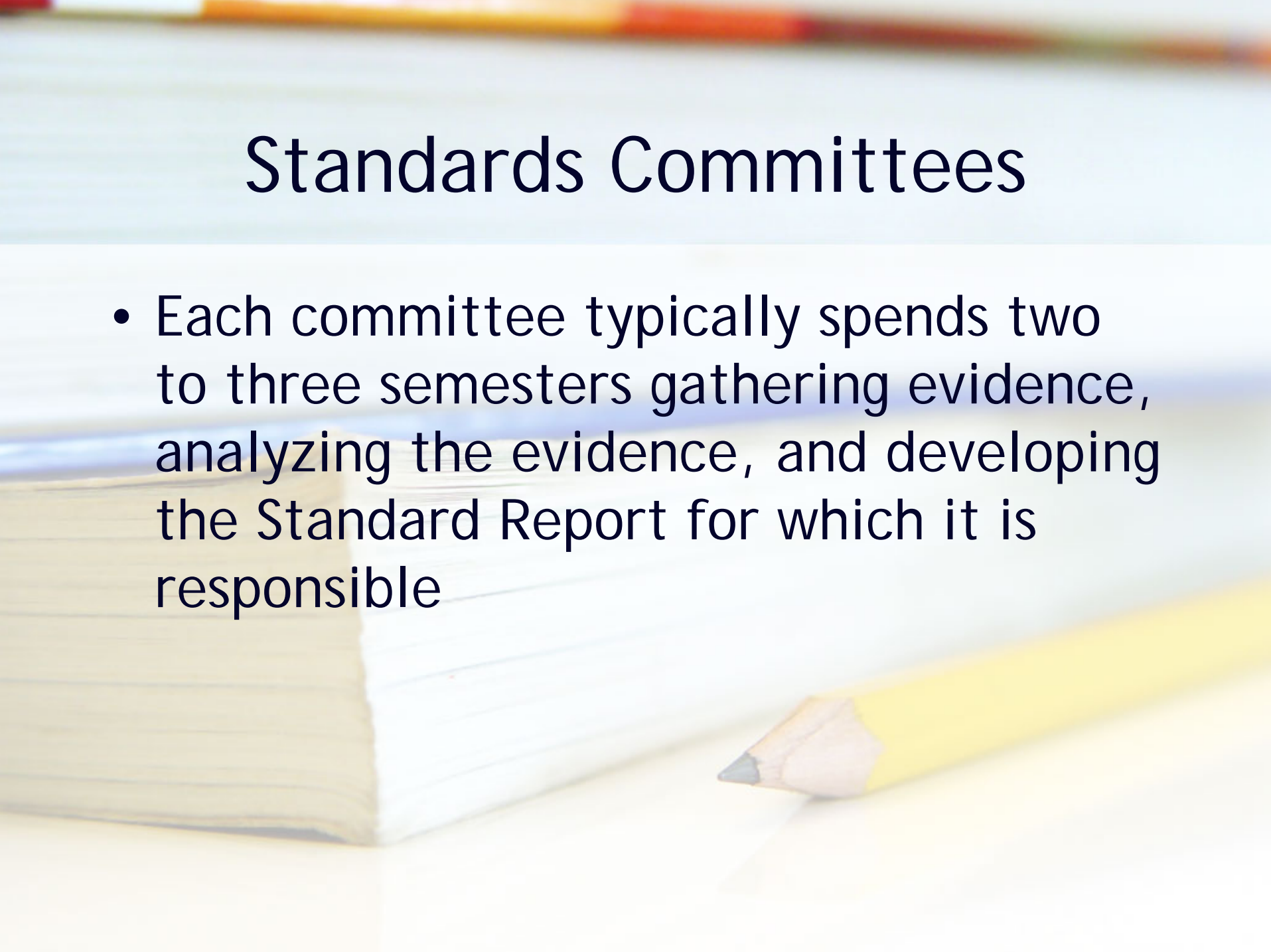
Team visit

Suggested Self-Study Sequence

- School and Community Profile
- Opinion Questionnaires
- Standards Reports/Executive Summary
- Approval of Standards Reports
- Critical Strengths and Needs

Standards Committees

- Each committee typically spends two to three semesters gathering evidence, analyzing the evidence, and developing the Standard Report for which it is responsible



Seven Standards

(73 Indicators)

- **Teaching and Learning Standards**

1. Mission and Expectations (7)
2. Curriculum (11)
3. Instruction (8)
4. Assessment (8)

- **Support Standards**

5. Leadership and Organization (14)
6. School resources for Learning (16)
7. Community Resources for Learning (9)

Standards Reports

- Each report is typically 8-12 double-spaced pages
- Reports explain the school's conclusions and supportive evidence demonstrating the extent to which the school is adhering to each Standard
- Schools are required to gather evidence and documentation to support conclusions.

Executive Summary

- States the committee's conclusion regarding the school's level of adherence to the Standard based on the rubric in the Self-Study guide
- Provides a one-page rationale with the specific evidence which led the school to this conclusion
- Lists the school's strengths and needs related to the school's adherence to the Standard

Faculty Approval of Executive Summaries/Standards Reports

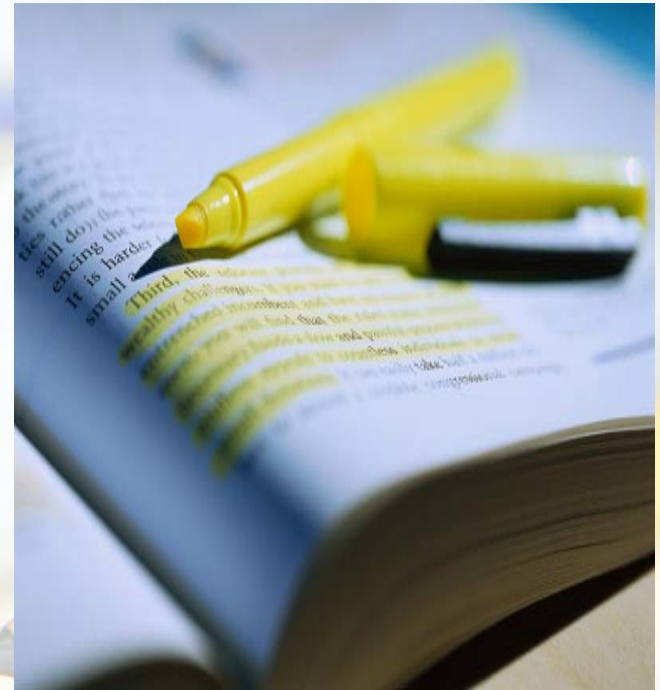
- Each Standard Committee should present its Executive Summary prior to the vote
- The entire professional staff must approve each Executive Summary by a two-thirds vote
- Each member of the professional staff should receive a copy of the report in advance and be given a chance to provide feedback

Statement of Critical Strengths and Needs

- From the lists of strengths and needs for each Standard, the faculty must determine which are the school's Critical Strengths and Needs
- The final list should contain approximately 10-15 strengths and 10-15 needs

Highlights of Team Visit

- Panel Presentation
- Interviews with Teachers
- Examination of Student Work
- Student Shadowing
- Classroom Visits
- Meeting with Standards Committees
- Meetings with Various Stakeholders



Value of Accreditation Process

- Assists administrators in working toward school improvement
- Assures students that their needs are being met through a quality educational program
- Affirms that school board educational policies and plans are sound
- Assures the local citizens that tax dollars are supporting quality school programs and a quality facility