

APPENDIX 304

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF JOB CORPS HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Accreditation is defined as a process to assure that an entity meets standards established by a group of external experts. It refers to the recognition of an educational institution as maintaining certain standards.

In order to assure the quality of high school programs offered to students at Job Corps centers, these programs must be recognized by the following accrediting agencies:

1. State or commonwealth regulatory agency responsible for academic learning at the secondary level such as the state commissioner, the state board of education, the general council of education, or the state department of education in the state in which the high school program is located; and
2. One of the following six regional accrediting bodies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as reliable authorities as to the quality of education or training provided by institutions of higher education and the higher education programs they accredit, if the state defers to a regional accreditation process. These regional bodies accredit nearly all secondary programs that are academic in nature:
 - a. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which services Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Information on secondary school accreditation can be found on the agency's Commission for Independent Schools (CIS) and Commission on Public Secondary Schools (CPSS) links at www.neasc.org.
 - b. The Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges, which serves the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Information on secondary accreditation can be found on the association's Commission on Secondary Schools website at www.css-msa.org.
 - c. The North Central Association, an accreditation division of AdvancED, accredits high schools in all 50 states. Information on the association's accreditation process can be found at www.advanc-ed.org.
 - d. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, an accreditation division of AdvancED, accredits all high schools in all 50 states. Information on the association's accreditation process can be found at www.advanc-ed.org.
 - e. The Northwest Accreditation Commission, which serves Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Information on the association's accreditation process can be found on the Commission on Schools website at www.northwestaccreditation.org.

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- f. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which serves California and Hawaii. Information on accreditation can be found on the association's Accrediting Commission for Schools website at www.acswasc.org.
 3. If the high school is a charter school, it must be accredited according to the provisions of charter school legislation in the state in which it is located.
 4. If the high school is an online school and/or offers 51 percent or more of its program online, it must:
 - a. Meet the requirements specified in 1 or 2 above; and
 - b. Be accredited by the Distance Education Training Council (DETC) at www.detc.org.