

Council Briefing Note

Item:	Update titles of United States' Regional Post-Secondary Education Accrediting Entities, pursuant to subsection 1(1) of O. Reg. 176/10.
Public Interest Rationale:	Update titles of United States' Regional Post-Secondary Education Accrediting Entities, pursuant to subsection 1(1) of O. Reg. 176/10 to avoid confusion over recent name changes undertaken by five of the six US regional accrediting bodies.
Strategic Alignment:	Accountable and agile processes to certify educators to teach in Ontario classrooms.
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Issue

Recently, five out of six regional US education program accrediting bodies listed under subsection 1(1) of O. Reg. 176/10 have changed their names and consequent updates in the regulation are required.

Risks and Mitigating Factors

Failure to update the new names of the regional US accrediting bodies may lead to confusion for international applicants seeking licensure in Ontario.

Background

Subsection 1(1) of O. Reg. 176/10 defines what an “acceptable post-secondary degree” means in respect to teacher certification requirements. Most teacher certification pathways require that an applicant complete an “acceptable post-secondary degree” (among other qualifications) to be licensed by the College.

In addition to degrees granted by post-secondary educational institutions authorized to grant a degree under an Act of the legislature, or a post-secondary educational institution in another Canadian province or territory, subsection 1(1) of O. Reg. 176/10 recognizes post-secondary educational institutions in the United States that are approved by six regional accrediting bodies namely:

1. the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools,
2. the New England Association of Schools and Colleges,
3. the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools,
4. the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities,
5. the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or
6. the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.



In recent years, five out of the six US regional accrediting bodies have changed their names as follows:

1. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
 - Now known as the **Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)**
2. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
 - Now known as the **New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)**
3. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)
 - Now known as the **Higher Learning Commission (HLC)**
4. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
 - Now known as the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)**
6. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)
 - Now known as the **WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)**

Given the recent changes and to avoid confusion for internationally trained students seeking licensure in Ontario, changes to subsection 1(1) of O. Reg. 176/10 are now required.

Decision Sought

As recent title changes affecting five out of six United States based regional accrediting bodies require updating, it is recommended:

1. **That Council request that the Minister of Education amend subsection 1(1) of O. Reg. 176/10, Teachers' Qualifications as follows:**
 - (A) **the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Higher Education,**
 - (B) **the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission of Higher Education,**
 - (C) **the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Higher Learning Commission,**
 - (D) **the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities,**
 - (E) **the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, or**
 - (F) **the Western Association of Schools and Colleges WASC Senior College and University Commission, or**

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Next Steps

Should Council approve the request for amendments to O. Reg. 176/10, Teachers' Qualifications, a letter will be sent on behalf of Council requesting that Minister of Education staff work with College staff to draft corresponding regulatory amendments for Council review and approval.