



**OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION**

April 22, 2020

Ms. Lori Herman  
Principal  
Hazleton Area Career Center  
1451 West 23rd Street  
Hazleton, PA 18202

Dear Ms. Lori Herman:

It is my pleasure to inform you that at its April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting the Commission on Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools voted to award the following to **Hazleton Area Career Center**, grades 9-PS:

**ACCREDITATION**

The term of accreditation is for ten years, effective **May 1, 2020** and expiring on **May 1, 2030**.

An “Accredited” institution is an educational organization that meets all MSA Standards for Accreditation, adheres to applicable MSA policies, and meets the requirements of the self-study protocol used. The institution agrees to adhere to all requirements for maintenance of accreditation.

The Commission on Secondary Schools has identified issues of concern that, although not rising to the level of a stipulation, warrant monitoring to ensure that your school takes the necessary actions to resolve the issues. A monitoring issue does not affect your school’s accreditation at this time. If the staff determines that an issue has not been resolved satisfactorily by the due date noted below, the Commission may elect to add it as a stipulation to your school’s accreditation.

**MONITORING ISSUE #1:**

**By the time of the Five-Year Report, the school must provide evidence to the Commission that it has demonstrated a secondary completion rate of 70% or greater for the following programs or provide an action plan for increasing the secondary completion rate for; (1) Collision Repair, (2) Law Enforcement.**

**MONITORING ISSUE #2:**

**By the time of the Five-Year Report, the school must provide evidence to the Commission that it has demonstrated a postsecondary licensing examination pass rate of 70% or greater for the Cosmetology program or provide an action plan for increasing the postsecondary licensing pass rate.**

Following is the authorized notice of your institution's accreditation for inclusion in your institution's publications and materials:

### **PUBLIC NOTICE OF ACCREDITATION**

Hazleton Area Career Center is accredited until May 1, 2030 by the:

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Secondary Schools  
3624 Market Street, 2 West  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
(267) 284-5000  
[www.msa-cess.org](http://www.msa-cess.org)

### **ACCREDITATION MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Over the next five years your institution will be expected to comply with the following accreditation maintenance requirements, as outlined in Commission Policies 1.2., Expectations for Accredited Institutions, and 6.3, Postsecondary Non-Degree Granting Career and Technical Institutions:

1. Continue to comply with all Standards for Accreditation for Career and Technical Institutions.
2. Submit Annual Reports to the Commission by the dates specified. You will be provided with the requirements and a template for these reports.
3. Request approval of the Commission prior to making any substantive changes to the institution. See Commission Policy 6.3, Section 6.3.17, Substantive Changes.
4. Comply with all policies of the Commission on Secondary Schools as published on the Commission's website ([www.msa-cess.org](http://www.msa-cess.org)).
5. Make every effort to fulfill your institution's commitment to implement its Plan for Growth and Improvement and achieve its objectives.
6. Submit an Annual Profile updating statistical data on your institution.
7. Pay annual membership dues and fees within the time period prescribed.
8. Annually, nominate members of your professional staff who are qualified and willing to serve on Middle States visiting teams. The Commission's policy requires your institution to release at least one staff member per year to serve on a visiting team.

In addition, please note the following requirements for career and technical institutions that are using or will use their Middle States accreditation to establish eligibility to participate in federal Title IV financial aid programs:

1. It is of particular importance that the institution complies with all of the provisions of Commission Policy 6.3, Postsecondary, Non-Degree Granting Career and Technical Institutions, a copy of which is included with this letter.

2. The Commission may conduct unannounced onsite inspections at any time for the purpose of determining whether your institution is in continued compliance with the Standards for Accreditation and the policies of the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools.
3. It is the requirement of the Commission on Secondary Schools, based on the requirements of the United States Department of Education, that all candidate and member institutions shall administer equitable admissions requirements and have clearly stated admissions, transfer, and other student policies appropriate to the mission, goals, programs, and resources of the institution.
4. Institutions that participate in federally guaranteed student loan programs under Title IV HEA must demonstrate diligence in keeping student default rates at an acceptably low level, and they must comply with the program responsibilities incumbent in participating in this program.
5. The institution shall maintain certificate requirements that conform to commonly accepted practice.
6. By virtue of signing the Program Participation Agreement, Title IV-recognized institutions give permission to the United States Department of Education, the Commission on Secondary Schools of Middle States Association, and its state licensing/authorizing agency to share information about the institution.
7. Institutions required to undergo a United States Department of Education audit must notify the Commission on Secondary Schools that such an audit will occur within ten (10) days of receipt of the USDE request.
8. A postsecondary, non-degree granting career and technology institution planning to close must report this intention to the Commission as soon as possible, but no later than six months prior to the planned closure date. See Commission Policy 6.3 for the requirements when planning to close an institution.

Please accept our sincere congratulations on the recognition of your school as an accredited member of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Enclosed please find your Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools accreditation certificate and other materials you can use to make this achievement known to your community of stakeholders. We are pleased that you continue to be among the schools throughout the world that meet the internationally recognized standards of quality of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The staff of the Commissions will be happy to be of service to you and your school at any time.

Sincerely,



Lisa Marie McCauley, Ed.D, CPA  
President  
Middle States Association  
Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Next Activities Due</u> Five Year Report: <b>12/1/2025</b> Team Visit: <b>Fall 2029</b> Accreditation Expires: <b>5/1/2030</b> MSA Internal School Code: <b>PA495</b></p>
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