



## **INTERRUPTION TO EDUCATIONAL OPERATIONS**

The Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools are aware that accredited and candidate institutions might experience an event that is beyond their control and is so severe that it causes an institution to suspend its operation as an educational institution temporarily.

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the procedures the Commissions will follow when they are notified that an accredited or candidate institution has had to suspend operating temporarily.

### **Section 1: Notice of Interruption to Educational Operations.**

When an accredited or candidate institution experiences an event that is beyond their control and is so severe that it causes an institution to suspend operating temporarily, the head of the institution or his/her designee should notify the President of the Commissions as soon as practicable. The notification should include as much information about the precipitating event and other information available regarding the suspension of operations.

**Section 2: Procedures for Accredited Institutions.** The following will apply when an institution notifies the President of the Commissions that it has had to interrupt its operations as an educational institution temporarily:

- a. The institution's accreditation status will continue as the last status granted by the Commission on Elementary Schools and/or Commission on Secondary Schools.
- b. The date on which the institution's term of accreditation is set to expire as reported in the most recent Official Notification of Accreditation letter will be suspended during the period in which the institution has interrupted its operations as an educational institution;
- c. The accreditation status of the institution will be reported publicly on the Commissions' website as one of the following, based on the institution's current status—
  - 1) Accredited (Operations Interrupted Temporarily)
  - 2) Accredited with Stipulations (Operations Interrupted Temporarily)
  - 3) Probation (Operations Interrupted Temporarily)
- d. The requirement to pay annual dues and appropriate fees will be suspended.
- e. The duration of the interruption in operations may be added to the existing term of accreditation as noted in the most recent Official Notification of Accreditation.
- f. The following will apply when the institution has resumed or will resume operations as an educational institution:
  - 1) The institution shall notify the President of the Commissions in writing;
  - 2) The institution's term of accreditation will be extended for the remainder of the term that was in effect at the time the institution interrupted its operations as an educational institution;
  - 3) The institution will resume paying all applicable dues and fees owed from the date on which the institution resumed operating as an educational institution; and
  - 4) The institution will meet all expectations for accredited institutions as prescribed in MSA-CESS Policy: Expectations for Accredited Institutions.
  - 5) If the institution that resumes operations is significantly different than the institution was at the time of its most recent accreditation/reaccreditation, the President may direct the institution to conduct a comprehensive self-study, host an onsite team visit, and be granted accreditation/reaccreditation.

**Section 3: Procedures for Candidate Institutions.** The following will apply when a candidate institution notifies the President of the Commissions that it has had to interrupt its operations as an educational institution temporarily:

- a. The institution's status as a Candidate for Accreditation will continue until the President of the Commissions determines otherwise;
- b. The date on which the institution's term as a Candidate for Accreditation is set to expire as reported in the Offer of Candidacy letter will be suspended during the period in which the institution has interrupted its operations as an educational institution;
- c. The institution's status as a Candidate for Accreditation will be reported publicly on the Commissions' website as Candidate for Accreditation (Operations Interrupted Temporarily); and
- d. The requirement to pay annual dues and appropriate fees will be suspended.
- e. The duration of the interruption in operations may be added to the existing term of accreditation as noted in the most recent Official Notification of Accreditation.
- f. The following will apply when the institution notifies the President of the Commissions of the date on which it has resumed or will resume operations as an educational institution:
  - 1) The institution shall notify the President of the Commissions in writing;
  - 2) The institution's term as a Candidate for Accreditation as noted in the Offer of Candidacy letter will be extended for the remainder of the term that was in effect at the time the institution interrupted its operations as an educational institution;
  - 3) The institution will resume paying all applicable dues and fees owed from the date on which the institution resumed operating as an educational institution; and
  - 4) If the institution that resumes operations is significantly different than the institution was at the time of its most recent accreditation/reaccreditation, the President may direct the institution to conduct a comprehensive self-study, host an onsite team visit, and be granted accreditation/reaccreditation.