

September 1, 2010

Weber County Planning Commission

Re: Green Valley Academy

To Whom It May Concern:

Our office has been asked to respond to concerns regarding private schools, their education program, curriculum and accreditation particularly relating to the proposed Green Valley Academy.

Public high schools in Utah are required by law and State Board of Education rule (R277-410) to be accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Commission (Northwest). Northwest is one of six recognized regional accrediting agencies in the United States. Accreditation requires schools of all types, both public and private, to meet rigorous standards regarding all aspects of their educational program. Most private secondary schools in Utah seek Northwest accreditation to ensure that students' credits and diplomas are accepted by other secondary schools, colleges and universities.

Northwest accreditation requires schools, public and non-public, to "meet or exceed" the requirements of the state in which they are located. In Utah this has been interpreted to mean that an accredited school, public or private, must:

- 1) Offer an educational program that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Utah State Core Curriculum standards as to course offerings, content and assessment.
- 2) Guarantee that all professional personnel hold a valid Utah Educator License and be properly endorse for their assignment(s).
- 3) Are compliant with all other requirements for accreditation by the Northwest Accreditation Commission.

The principals involved with the proposed Green Valley Academy have owned and run successful private schools in the past. These facilities were in compliance with all Utah laws and Northwest accreditation.

If additional information is necessary, please contact our office.

Sincerely,



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