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In January 2025, New Horizons Community Charter School (NHCCS) undertook a school-wide, nationally validated assessment conducted in spring 2025 by Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence (BRSE), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has served schools nationwide since 2001.

The assessment included a comprehensive review of nine performance areas that are hallmarks of high-performing schools. NHCCS engaged in a robust process that included stakeholder surveys, one-on-one and small group interviews, and an onsite review of district curricula, instruction, and programs.

Before the assessment, in **December 2024**, the NHCCS administrative team attended the **Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence National Conference**, where they participated in leadership workshops focused on student achievement, instructional best practices, and the use of data to drive decision-making. Reflecting on the experience, NHCCS leadership noted:

"Attending the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference was not only a valuable professional learning experience but also a great way to kick off the process. We recognized immediately that we already met many of the indicators of excellence. The intensive review and feedback from our assigned assessor helped propel our school to the next level."

The **Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence assessment process** provides schools with valuable feedback in the form of datasets, critical questions, and an actionable blueprint for improvement. The process culminates in a rigorous review of nine key areas:

- Student focus and support
- School organization and culture
- Challenging standards and curriculum
- Active teaching and learning
- Technology integration
- Professional community
- Leadership and educational vitality
- School, family, and community partnerships
- Indicators of success

This comprehensive evaluation equips schools like NHCCS with actionable insights that support continuous improvement and sustained excellence. As a result of meeting their criteria, we were awarded the BRSE Beacon Award, which will be formally presented at this year's conference in December. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Webb