

## Vermont State Board of Education Independent School Subcommittee—10 March 2022

### **Proposed criteria for determining need for onsite visit**

- Schools requiring an onsite visit
  - All initial approval requests
  - First renewal after initial approval period
  - If the last renewal was for less than the full approval period per SBE rule
  - All General Education/Special Education schools
  - Schools with multiple administrative and/or special education staff changes within the last two years
  - Schools with boarding capabilities w/o accreditation or DCF licensure
  - Schools with residential capacity that withdraws from or has its residential treatment license from DCF revoked/suspended
  - Schools where concerns have been expressed to the IS Team that the AOE's legal team determine require further review
- Schools allowing for desk review
  - Kindergartens (all three are accredited nationally and licensed by DCF's Child Care Licensing; kindergartens are given two-year approvals per SBE rules)
  - Amendment requests to add a grade(s) or a minimum increase in enrollments, if the school has undergone an onsite visit within the last three years

### **Considerations of note**

- As noted by the Auditor's Office, an independent school cannot be reapproved for more than five years (SBER 2226.11), and approvals under 16 V.S.A. subsection (b)(2) shall be for a term established by rule of the Board but not greater than five years. With the delays caused by COVID, some of the independent schools will probably be deemed to be "approved" for more than five years.
- As of December 2021, all draft reports will be reviewed by the AOE's General Counsel prior to being sent to the school for review and response. This new step will likely slow the overall review process. Once shared with the school, per SBE rule, they have 30 days to review/respond to the draft report.
- SBE is not considering renewals or initial approval requests until after the draft independent school rules go through LCAR (anticipated to be in April). Those schools reports currently in the queue were reviewed under the independent school rules in effect at the time of review.

### **Information on Tutorials**

- Four approved Tutorials in Vermont
- Require onsite visits, even though two are licensed by DCF as Residential Treatment Centers
- Tutorials are given two-year approvals per SBE rules

### **Info on Teen Parent Education Programs**

- State Board standards do not require an onsite visit
- TPEs are given three-year approvals per SBE rules
- Currently three TPE apps are being reviewed
- As of December 2021, all draft reports are reviewed by the AOE's General Counsel to being shared with the TPE for review and response.