

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant initial general and special education independent school approval to BRIGHTality in St. Albans, VT, to serve up to 15 children/youth in grades 6-12 in the following disability areas: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Emotional Disturbance (ED), Intellectual Disability (ID), Multiple Disabilities (MD), Other Health Impairments (OHI), Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI)?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants initial general and special education independent school approval to BRIGHTality in St. Albans, VT, to serve up to 15 children/youth in grades 6-12 in the following disability areas: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Emotional Disturbance (ED), Intellectual Disability (ID), Multiple Disabilities (MD), Other Health Impairments (OHI), Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI). This approval is for two years through June 30, 2024, which is the maximum length allowed by SBE rule for initial approval.

This approval is conditional on the requirement that the school reports to the Agency of Education within five business days whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing or administration during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. § 166 (b)
State Board Rules 2200, 2228 et seq

1. An independent school may operate and provide elementary and secondary education if it is approved by the State Board of Education.
2. The State Board of Education shall approve an independent school if it substantially complies with the Board's rules for independent schools, promulgated as Series 2200 (Independent School Program Approval).
3. BRIGHTality is seeking initial general and special education independent school approval to serve up to 15 children/youth in grades 6-12 within the following special education disability areas: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Emotional Disturbance (ED),

Intellectual Disability (ID), Multiple Disabilities (MD), Other Health Impairments (OHI), Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD), and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI).

4. The Agency of Education's (AOE) independent school and special education review teams conducted a review of the program on November 30, 2021.
5. Currently, BRIGHTality is providing tutoring services for students in grades K-12.
6. Four sections of the new independent school rules took effect upon adoption on May 10, 2022. Those rule are: Rule 2223 (Procedure), Rule 2224 (Reciprocity), Rule 2226 (Application) and Rule 2227 (Approval). BRIGHTality has provided a signed addendum attesting to meeting these new rules.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management