

Moving Education Forward in Vermont

Act I Working Group Update

Spring 2022

Who We Are

In 2019, the Act I Working Group (also known as the Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Working Group) was created by Vermont law. This Working Group is made up of 23 people from different parts of state government, educational associations, and community members, including high school students, who are passionate about education.

What We Are Working On

We are working on two main tasks over a 3-year period.

Part I (Fall 2021 to present)

We were tasked with reviewing statutes, policies, and government rules that affect curriculum and student success. We chose to review a State Board rule called the *Vermont Education Quality Standards* and have been preparing our recommendations for updates to this rule for the State Board of Education. In April 2022, we finalized and submitted our recommendations.

Part II (2022-2023)

Later this year, we will move on to reviewing state educational standards (different than the quality standards) and identify ways they can better represent the history, point of view, and experiences of groups who have been traditionally underrepresented.



More on the Education Quality Standards Updates

The *Vermont Education Quality Standards* act as a broad guide, highlighting important values for our schools and giving direction to school districts as they develop their own curricula and choose their materials. Since fall 2021, we have been talking to community members (like you!) all over Vermont to get feedback about what is important to them, working to update the standards to make sure they do the following:



Promote critical thinking around the history, contributions, and viewpoints of many different ethnic and social groups



Encourage students to explore questions about ethnic and social identities as well as issues around equity and racism



Provide welcoming spaces for all students



Develop pathways for families and students to talk about their experiences related to race, ethnic, or social group identity at school

What You Can Do

We have presented our recommendations to the Vermont State Board of Education. In the coming months the State Board will start the process to get feedback from community members like you about our recommendations.

There are many ways you can take part:

- Attend an upcoming meeting to learn about the changes and why they are important
- Talk to other parents and caregivers at your school about the proposed changes
- Speak at a Board of Education meeting when the public comment period opens

Connect with us!



Send an email to Amanda Garces
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Sign up for our e-newsletter to stay up to date about public comment opportunities
E-mail Amanda.Garces@vermont.gov