

Recommended Changes to Rule Series 2000, Education Quality Standards

Presentation to the Vermont State Board of Education by the EQS Committee

May 17, 2023

Act 1 Working Group Charge

Act 1 charged with Working Group with recommending additional standards designed to:

1. Increase cultural competency of students in grades PK-12;
2. Increase attention to the history, contribution, and perspectives of ethnic and social groups;
3. Promote critical thinking regarding the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic and social groups;
4. Commit schools to eradicating racial bias in their curricula;
5. Provide, across their curricula, content and methods that enable students to safely explore questions of identity, race equality, and racism; and
6. Ensure that the basic curriculum and extracurricular programs are welcoming to all students and account for parental concerns about religion or culture (Act 1 of 2019, Section 1(g) – Duties of the Working Group).

EQS Committee Process

- May 2022: EQS Committee began its review/work
- Summer 2022: Testimony and focused work on Definitions
- Fall 2022: Testimony and focused work on sections related to Curriculum & Instruction
- Fall 2022: Testimony and focused work on AOE-recommended technical changes
- November 2022: Public hearing
- Late Fall 2022: Testimony and focused work on “to whom” the rule should apply
- Late Fall 2022/Winter 2023: Legal review
- Winter 2023: Updates to sections of the rule to address reporting requirements and align with proposed District Quality Standards (DQS)
- Spring 2023: Review and comment by full SBE in two special meetings

Basis for EQS Committee Changes

- EQS Committee recommendations for further modifications to the revisions proposed by the Act 1 Working Group fell into five categories:
 1. Ensuring the EQS was consistent with existing statute
 2. Whether the EQS was understandable and able to be implemented in the field
 3. Technical changes recommended by AOE and the field to bring the document current with policy and practice
 4. Bring the EQS in alignment with the newly-proposed District Quality Standards (DQS) and Quality Assurance Review (QAR) process
 5. Feedback from full SBE at two special meetings

Changes to Draft

Since May 11, 2023 Special SBE Meeting



Revised definitions:

“Equity” to refer to career technical education

“Civic and community engagement” to include community service

“Restorative practices” to align with statute



Removed reference for application of EQS to independent schools



Clarified requirements for school boards to establish a process for soliciting and responding to public feedback and complaints regarding schools' implementation of the EQS