

Proposed Filing - Coversheet

Instructions:

In accordance with Title 3 Chapter 25 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and the “Rule on Rulemaking” ([CVR 04-000-001](#)) adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State, this filing will be considered complete upon filing and acceptance of these forms and enclosures with the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

All forms shall be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week.

The data provided in text areas of Proposed Filing Coversheet will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of “Proposed Rule Postings” online, and the newspapers of record. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

**PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT
REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!**

Certification Statement: As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

District Quality Standards

_____/s/ Daniel M. French_____, on 2/24/2023
(signature) (date)

Printed Name and Title:

Daniel M. French, Ph.D., Secretary of Education

RECEIVED BY: _____

- Coversheet
- Adopting Page
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Environmental Impact Analysis
- Strategy for Maximizing Public Input
- Scientific Information Statement (if applicable)
- Incorporated by Reference Statement (if applicable)
- Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- Annotated text (Clearly marking changes from previous rule)
- ICAR Filing Confirmed

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

District Quality Standards

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Education

3. PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:

(A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE).

Name: Emily Simmons, General Counsel

Agency: Agency of Education

Mailing Address:

1 National Life Drive

Davis 5

Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Telephone: 802-828-1518 Fax: 802-828-6430

E-Mail: Emily.Simmons@vermont.gov

Web URL *(WHERE THE RULE WILL BE POSTED)*:

<https://education.vermont.gov/rules>

4. SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON:

(A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON).

Name: Courtney O'Brien, Business Project Manager

Agency: Agency of Education

Mailing Address:

1 National Life Drive

Davis 5

Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Telephone: 802-595-4007 Fax: 802-828-6430

E-Mail: Courtney.O'Brien@vermont.gov

5. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:

(DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE, EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?) No

IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

n/a

PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

n/a

6. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:

(THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).

16 V.S.A. § 165 (g)

2022 Acts and Resolves No. 127, Sec. 14

7. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY:

The State has both a constitutional and a statutory responsibility to provide all students with substantially equal educational opportunities.

Recognizing that effective, consistent operational practices are foundational to cultivating equity and quality, the 2022 Legislature directed the Agency to adopt rules establishing school district quality standards ("DQS") "regarding the business, facilities management, and governance practices of school districts." The Legislature also required development of a process to conduct DQS reviews and publication of "metrics regarding the outcomes" of the reviews.

In each of the three identified areas, the proposed rules identify standards based on existing statutory requirements and accepted best practices, and indicators of high quality adherence to or attainment of the DQS. The proposed rules create a multi-step process for annual self-evaluation and publication of metrics, as well as Agency oversight, identification of struggling systems, and technical support.

8. CONCISE SUMMARY (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The proposed new rules describe core elements inherent in a high quality system of local education delivery. The rules establish standards regarding critical (i) business practices (in re: budgeting & accounting, risk management & internal controls, personnel management, and data management); (ii) facilities management and safety practices; and (iii) governance priorities, protocols, and processes.

The proposed rules describe a system of self-evaluation, publication of metrics, and Agency support and oversight for school districts/supervisory unions/supervisory districts to attain the stated standards.

The rules are written to acknowledge that although 16 V.S.A. § 165 speaks of "districts," other statutes assign responsibility for duties related to business, facilities, and governance to (i) supervisory unions to perform on behalf of their member school districts and (ii) supervisory districts (i.e., single school districts that serve as their own supervisory unions) to perform on their own behalf.

9. EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RULE IS NECESSARY:

The VT Constitution and 16 V.S.A. § 1 vest ultimate responsibility in the State for ensuring that all students have substantially equal access to a quality education. The State fulfills its obligation by delegating considerable authority to school districts, supervisory unions/supervisory districts, and superintendents. The State therefore has an obligation to provide public assurance that the authority it has delegated is implemented in a manner that achieves the State's responsibility.

As one way to provide such public assurance, the 2022 Legislature directed the Agency of Education to adopt rules setting forth school district quality standards "regarding the business, facilities management, and governance practices of school districts." The Legislature further required that the rules "include a process for school district quality reviews to be conducted by the Agency" and that the Secretary publish metrics regarding the results of the reviews.

10. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS NOT ARBITRARY AS DEFINED IN 3 V.S.A. § 801(b)(13)(A):

The Agency drafted the proposed rules in strict adherence to a legislative directive to adopt school district quality standards relating to "the business, facilities management, and governance practices of school districts."

The proposed rules identify standards that are restatements of actions that have been statutorily required or accepted best practices for many years.

The proposed rules are clear and understandable due to an intensive drafting & vetting process that included the participation of subject matter subcommittees of Agency employees, a VT School Boards Association

("VSBA") taskforce, the VT School Crisis Planning Team, the VT Association of School Business Professionals, the VT School Human Resources Professionals, the VT School Boards Insurance Trust, Trustees of the Vermont Superintendents Association ("VSA"), the VT State Board of Education ("SBE"), and a working group of SBE, VSA, VSBA, VT Principals Association, and VT-National Education Association representatives.

11. LIST OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS RULE:

Agency of Education employees
School Districts and their boards
Supervisory Unions / Supervisory Districts and their boards
Superintendents
Business Managers and other "central office" staff
Building-level administrators working in public schools
Public school educators and staff
Guardians of school-aged students, taxpayers, and community members in general
Vermont Superintendents Association
VT School Boards Association
VT Principals Association
VT-National Education Association
VT Association of School Business Professionals
VT School Human Resources Professionals
VT School Boards Insurance Trust
VT School Crisis Planning Team
VT State Board of Education

12. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The proposed rules identify standards that are restatements of actions that have been required in statute or accepted best practices for many years. As a result, to the extent a school district or supervisory union/supervisory district might be required to make substantial expenditures (e.g., related to school facilities), the expenditure would be required by statute even if the proposed rules did not exist.

The Agency anticipates that the economic impact of the proposed rules themselves will be minimal. The greatest cost will likely be one related to the time it will take to train Agency employees to conduct quality assurance reviews of local systems that are struggling to meet the identified standards.

13. A HEARING WILL BE SCHEDULED.

IF A HEARING WILL NOT BE SCHEDULED, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY.

14. HEARING INFORMATION

(THE FIRST HEARING SHALL BE NO SOONER THAN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE POSTING OF NOTICES ONLINE).

IF THIS FORM IS INSUFFICIENT TO LIST THE INFORMATION FOR EACH HEARING, PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO COMPLETE THE HEARING INFORMATION NEEDED FOR THE NOTICE OF RULEMAKING.

Date: 4/4/2023

Time: 05:00 PM

Street Address:

1 National Life Drive

Davis 5

Montpelier, VT

Zip Code: 05620

URL for Virtual:

Teams Meeting ID: 213 228 686 662

Passcode: iNfysr

Or call in (audio only): +1 802-828-7667,,451755229#

Phone Conference ID: 451 755 229#

Date: 4/6/2023

Time: 11:30 AM

Street Address:

1 National Life Drive

Davis 5

Montpelier, V

Zip Code: 05620

URL for Virtual:

Teams Meeting ID: 287 926 365 937

Passcode: 4XLMsv

Or call in (audio only): +1 802-828-7667,450553007#

Phone Conference ID: 450 553 007#

Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

URL for Virtual:

15. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT (NO EARLIER THAN 7 DAYS FOLLOWING LAST HEARING): 4/14/2023

16. KEYWORDS (PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 3 KEYWORDS OR PHRASES TO AID IN THE SEARCHABILITY OF THE RULE NOTICE ONLINE).

School District

Supervisory Union

Supervisory District

District Quality Standards

Quality Assurance Review

Education

Schools

Adopting Page

Instructions:

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

District Quality Standards

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Education

3. TYPE OF FILING (*PLEASE CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FILING FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU BASED ON THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED BELOW*):

- **AMENDMENT** - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment if the rule is replaced with other text.
- **NEW RULE** - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.
- **REPEAL** - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

This filing is **A NEW RULE** .

4. LAST ADOPTED (*PLEASE PROVIDE THE SOS LOG#, TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAST ADOPTION FOR THE EXISTING RULE*):

n/a

Economic Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the economic impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated costs and benefits to be expected from adoption of the rule; estimates the costs and benefits for each category of people enterprises and government entities affected by the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; and explains their analysis concluding that rulemaking is the most appropriate method of achieving the regulatory purpose. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Rules affecting or regulating schools or school districts must include cost implications to local school districts and taxpayers in the impact statement, a clear statement of associated costs, and consideration of alternatives to the rule to reduce or ameliorate costs to local school districts while still achieving the objectives of the rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 832b for details).

Rules affecting small businesses (excluding impacts incidental to the purchase and payment of goods and services by the State or an agency thereof), must include ways that a business can reduce the cost or burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn’t appropriate, and an evaluation of creative, innovative or flexible methods of compliance that would not significantly impair the effectiveness of the rule or increase the risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or those affected by the rule.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

District Quality Standards

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Education

3. CATEGORY OF AFFECTED PARTIES:

LIST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:

Agency of Education employees

School Districts and their boards

Supervisory Unions / Supervisory Districts and their boards

Superintendents

Business Managers and other "central office" staff

Building-level administrators working in public schools
Public school educators and staff
Guardians of school-aged students, taxpayers, and
community members in general
Vermont Superintendents Association
VT School Boards Association
VT Principals Association
VT-National Education Association
VT Association of School Business Professionals
VT School Human Resources Professionals
VT School Boards Insurance Trust
VT School Crisis Planning Team
VT State Board of Education

School districts and the supervisory unions that provide them services will be affected by the proposed rules and a school district may experience a financial impact if the Agency finds it to be in violation of the standards. However, because the rules set forth standards that are restatements of existing statutory requirements or accepted best practices, the Agency does not expect that the rules themselves will create significant *new* financial burdens on school districts or supervisory unions.

The Agency anticipates that the economic impact of the proposed rules themselves will be de minimus. The most likely additional cost will be related to the time it will take to train Agency employees to conduct quality assurance reviews of local systems that are struggling to meet the identified standards.

The proposed quality standards and review process have the potential benefits to students, taxpayers, and the State as a whole. They are intended to increase the quality of local education delivery systems and enhance public transparency of those systems, which the Legislature anticipates will improve the likelihood

that all VT students have substantially equal access to a quality education.

4. IMPACT ON SCHOOLS:

INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS CLEARLY STATING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS:

Please see the answer to #3 above.

5. ALTERNATIVES: CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE TO REDUCE OR AMELIORATE COSTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE.

The Agency drafted the proposed rules in strict adherence to a legislative directive to adopt school district quality standards relating to "the business, facilities management, and governance practices of school districts" and including a process to review each district's adherence to the standards.

The proposed rules identify standards that are restatements of actions that have been statutorily required or accepted best practices for many years.

The proposed rules resulted from an intensive process that included the active participation of Agency staff and a broad range of stakeholder groups.

6. IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES:

INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON SMALL BUSINESSES (EXCLUDING IMPACTS INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE STATE OR AN AGENCY THEREOF):

The Agency does not anticipate that the proposed rules will impact small businesses.

7. SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE: EXPLAIN WAYS A BUSINESS CAN REDUCE THE COST/BURDEN OF COMPLIANCE OR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT SUCH EVALUATION ISN'T APPROPRIATE.

No such evaluation was necessary because the Agency does not anticipate that the proposed rules will impact small businesses.

8. COMPARISON:

COMPARE THE IMPACT OF THE RULE WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE, INCLUDING NO RULE ON THE SUBJECT OR A RULE HAVING SEPARATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS:

The proposed rules include standards that are restatements of actions required by statute or accepted best practices. With a few, minimal exceptions, any costs arising from compliance with the rules would occur even if there were no rules on the subject.

9. SUFFICIENCY: *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*

The proposed rules resulted from an intensive process that included the active participation of Agency staff and a broad range of stakeholder groups. Please see the Strategy for Maximizing Public Input page for a detailed response.

Environmental Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis. If no impacts are anticipated, please specify “No impact anticipated” in the field.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

District Quality Standards

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Agency of Education

3. GREENHOUSE GAS: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES (E.G. TRANSPORTATION OF PEOPLE OR GOODS; BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE; LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, WASTE GENERATION, ETC.):*
No impact is anticipated.

4. WATER: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS WATER (E.G. DISCHARGE / ELIMINATION OF POLLUTION INTO VERMONT WATERS, THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE STATE, WATER QUALITY ETC.):*
No impact is anticipated.

5. LAND: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):*
No impact is anticipated.

6. RECREATION: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS RECREATION IN THE STATE:*
No impact is anticipated.

7. **CLIMATE:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:*
No impact is anticipated.
8. **OTHER:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT'S ENVIRONMENT:*
No impact is anticipated.
9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *DESCRIBE HOW THE ANALYSIS WAS CONDUCTED, IDENTIFYING RELEVANT INTERNAL AND/OR EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED.*
Because the proposed rules are solely concerned with the operational processes of the public education delivery system, and because all standards are based on existing statutory requirements or accepted best practices, the Agency did not conduct a specific analysis of potential environmental impacts.

Public Input Maximization Plan

Instructions:

Agencies are encouraged to hold hearings as part of their strategy to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of rules. Please complete the form below by describing the agency's strategy for maximizing public input (what it did do, or will do to maximize the involvement of the public).

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

District Quality Standards

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Agency of Education

3. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE AGENCY'S STRATEGY TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE, LISTING THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH THAT STRATEGY:

DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT QUALITY STANDARDS & QUALITY INDICATORS:

In Autumn 2022, the Agency formed an internal team of business operations and finance professionals to draft an initial model of the proposed district quality standards ("DQS") regarding two of the three "domains" identified by the 2022 Legislature: Business Operations and Facilities Management. This team identified four subcategories within the Business Operations Domain: Budgeting and Accounting, Internal Controls, Personnel Management, and Data Management. The Secretary identified two subcategories within the Facilities Management Domain: Facilities Management and Facilities Safety.

The Agency's internal team then formed subcommittees ("DQS Sprint Teams") to further review and refine each subcategory into a defined set of standards and quality indicators. The VT Superintendents Association ("VSA")

Public Input

assigned a superintendent trustee and/or a trustee representative to participate in each Sprint Team.

The DQS Sprint Teams met at least weekly in one to two hour sessions in November and early December 2022. Each DQS Sprint Team completed "Quality Scales" based on their assigned subcategory, an exercise designed to organize thought around quality indicators, the appropriate "grain size" of selected standards, and anticipated levels of proficiency.

A similar subcommittee was formed to develop quality indicators under the Facilities Safety subcategory, including Rob Evans, contracted partner with Margolis Healy, and Sunni Erikson, Vermont Emergency Management. The standards relating to Facilities Management and Facilities Safety were drafted based on the provisions of Act 72 (2020) and current policy efforts related to school facilities and safety.

In July 2022, the Agency invited the VT School Boards Association ("VSBA") to develop standards related to district governance, the third DQS domain identified by the 2022 Legislature. VSBA assembled a taskforce that met four times between August 2022 and November 2022. The taskforce provided a district governance draft to Secretary French in November, which the Agency's internal team incorporated into the draft DQS standards. Quality Scales were not completed for the Governance Domain.

When developing the quality assurance review ("QAR") process that the Legislature required to be a component of the DQS Rules, the Agency's internal team selected five related sections from the current State Board of Education ("SBE") rules on Education Quality Standards ("EQS") to include in the QAR: Tiered Systems of Support, Local Assessment System, Coordinated Curriculum, Needs-Based Professional Development, and Continuous Improvement. Each of these rules addresses an existing quality standard for which 16 V.S.A. § 165(a) and (b) has long-required regular reports by school districts and reviews by the Secretary. Based on stakeholder feedback gathered in January 2023, three additional EQS sections were included in the QAR: Local

Public Input

Graduation Requirements, Staff Evaluation, and Access to Instructional Materials.

CONSULTATION WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

Following the completion of draft DQS, the Agency reached out to several Vermont partner organizations for review and feedback on the standards and quality indicators. Feedback received was largely positive and in support of the project, and focused on technical corrections or improvements to the language.

The following organizations were provided the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Sprint Teams to review relevant language and provide input or suggested changes:

* VT School Crisis Planning Team ("VSCPT"): Agency representatives Rob Evans and Sunni Erikson met virtually with the VSCPT on two occasions at monthly subcommittee meetings. Feedback was largely focused on how the DQS may incorporate proposed legislative changes to school safety.

* Vermont Association of School Business Officials ("VASBO"): Agency business office staff provided a brief overview of the DQS project to VASBO at monthly meetings on two occasions in November and December, and provided a copy of the completed draft standards and Quality Scales for review and discussion at an in-person meeting on January 13, 2023. VASBO members had an opportunity to discuss and comment on the selected standards. Suggested changes noted and suggested by the Agency included: use of the word "policy," clear delineation of roles, and incorporation of cybersecurity as a component of liability insurance coverage.

* Vermont School Human Resources Professionals ("VSHRP"): The Agency provided a copy of the completed draft Business Operations standards to VSHRP President Megan DeVenny, who distributed the documents to the VSHRP organization for review and comment. AOE met virtually with members of VSHRP on January 12, 2023 and solicited additional feedback about the draft standards, specifically those in the "Personnel Management" subsection. Comments were largely focused

Public Input

on clarity of terms and the suggested removal of a "staff wellness" standard.

* Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust ("VSBIT"): VSBIT is an external company that provides risk management services to Vermont school districts. VSBIT was consulted via email during the development of the DQS, and provided some general information about the most common risk management services it offers to VT Supervisory Unions and Districts.

* Vermont Superintendents Association Trustees ("VSA"): The Agency solicited input from VSA via their Trustees in early November 2022. The VSA Trustees (or an assigned delegate, such as a business manager or curriculum director) participated in the Sprint Teams. The Agency presented an overview of the project to the VSA at an in-person meeting on November 4, 2022, and provided subsequent updates to the VSA Trustees on December 4, 2022 and to the VSA membership on January 19, 2023.

QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW REFINEMENT:

The Agency's legal team led efforts to draft the proposed rule language for both the DQS and the QAR process.

Tammy Kolbe, Vice-Chair of the SBE, was invited to join the discussions around how to design the QAR process, with consideration for the SBE's role in EQS assurance per long-standing requirements in 16 V.S.A. § 165, as well as anticipated proposed changes to the EQS rules. The team met on four occasions in December and January and distributed a complete draft for stakeholder review on January 24, 2023.

DQS WORKING SESSIONS:

The Agency invited members of the SBE, VSA, VSBA, VT Principals Association, and VT-National Education Association to participate in two remote discussions on January 10 and January 12, 2023. During these sessions Agency presented information about the purpose and rationale for the project, the design process, and the anticipated quality assurance process.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Public Input

In addition to the contact discussed above, the Agency presented testimony and responded to questions at regular SBE meetings in August, September, November, and December 2022, and January 2023, as well as a special meeting warned specifically to discuss the DQS and QAR on January 25, 2023.

OTHER:

The Agency completed a draft of the new proposed rules (both DQS and QAR) and provided a written copy of the draft to each of the above organizations on January 25. The Agency invited them to provide written comments to the draft, responded to each comment, and incorporated many of the suggestions.

The Agency will convene two public hearings in early April - one in the middle of the day and one in the early evening. Participants will be able to access both hearings remotely by video and by telephone.

The Agency will accept written comments to the proposed rules through the end of the day, eight days after the final public hearing.

4. BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

Vermont Superintendents Association

VT School Boards Association

VT Principals Association

VT-National Education Association

VT Association of School Business Professionals

VT School Human Resources Professionals

VT School Boards Insurance Trust

VT School Crisis Planning Team

VT State Board of Education

In addition to general advertisements, the Agency will invite each of the entities listed above to be involved in further development of the proposed DQS/QAR rules and will ask each entity to notify its members of the

Public Input

opportunity to do so by testifying at scheduled public hearings and/or submitting written comments.