


MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents
FROM: Daniel M. French, Ed.D, Secretary 
SUBJECT: Equity Supports Based on 2018-2019 Accountability Data
DATE: December 2, 2020

Background

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that schools develop criteria for Equity Supports to help close pervasive gaps between historically marginalized and historically privileged student groups.

While the specific determination criteria for Equity Supports is left to individual states, ESSA requires that states develop such criteria. The assessments used in Vermont to make determinations come from the Academic Proficiency portion of the [Vermont Annual Snapshot](#). For a full examination of Vermont's criteria, please see the [Vermont ESSA State Plan](#).

A Vermont school or SU/SD is eligible for Equity Supports when the performance of a historically marginalized student group substantially lags that of their historically privileged corollary and persists over multiple years. Equity Supports were developed to ensure that schools understand where their sustained learning gaps are so that they are better poised to address them.

Equity Supports Based on 2018-19 Data

Please review the [complete list of eligible entities](#) to see which entities in your SU/SD may be eligible for Equity Supports based on 2018-2019 accountability data. Reviewing each LEA's snapshot will provide detailed information on the gaps in the identified school(s).

Supports for Supervisory Unions and School Districts

Regardless of equity status, each SU/SD has an AOE Education Quality Assurance Coordinator assigned as a resource for continuous improvement. With Equity Supports identification, the Coordinator will be reaching out to your curriculum director (and copying superintendents) in the near future to make sure your district is fully aware of available supports. These supports include:

- Access to the Education Quality and Continuous Improvement Framework and other available resources on our [website](#)
- Review/feedback of specific focus on equity eligibility within your continuous improvement plan
- Access to need specific Networked Improvement Communities (NICs), as available
- Access to the [Educational Equity and Diversity Professional Development Providers](#)
- Access to Vermont [Equity Literacy Resources](#)

Currently, schools eligible for Equity Supports do not have access to additional federal funding supporting school improvement efforts.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Josh Souliere at josh.souliere@vermont.gov. We look forward to supporting your work to ensure that Vermont's most vulnerable students have the additional supports needed to be successful.