



Vermont Agency of Education Releases First Annual Snapshot School Continuous Improvement Tool

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BARRE, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Education has released Vermont’s first [Annual Snapshot](#), an online tool that shows quantitative data for several metrics of school performance. The Snapshot contains information about each public school in every Supervisory District and Supervisory Union (SD/SU) in the state.

“This is a Vermont-centered approach to assessing school performance, using measures chosen by Vermonters,” said Secretary of Education **Daniel M. French, Ed.D.** “The snapshot will help communities understand how their schools are supporting achievement for all of their students. The goal is to provide a new level of data to help schools improve and grow.”

The Annual Snapshot is a way for Vermonters to better understand how their schools are performing and find opportunities for growth and improvement. The Annual Snapshot reports a school’s current performance, improvement over the past year and success in achieving an equitable education for all students. It was developed in concert with educators to reflect Vermont’s philosophy of continuous improvement.

Jennifer Miller-Arsenault, the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for Washington Central Supervisory Union and a member of a user advisory panel during the development of the Annual Snapshot, is hopeful that the new tool will make data analysis more efficient for schools and school systems. “When the Annual Snapshot is fully implemented, I anticipate being able to use the data more effectively and efficiently to inform our teaching practices, analyze our students’ strengths and needs, and evaluate the effectiveness of our earlier initiatives,” Miller-Arsenault said.

What is the Annual Snapshot?

The [Annual Snapshot](#) shows detail about the school’s achievements in meeting Vermont’s Education Quality Standards. These standards are measured in five domains: Academic Proficiency, Personalization, Safe and Healthy Schools, High Quality Staffing and Investment Priorities. The snapshot uses data collected from the 2017 - 2018 school year. It will be updated with data from the most recent school year in December 2019.

Together with the Integrated Field Reviews, the snapshot will help school systems identify successes and areas for improvement for their Continuous Improvement Plans. These plans help SD/SUs meet their goals to ensure high quality schools and equal access to students from Vermont’s historically vulnerable communities. The snapshot is part of a more holistic approach to assessing performance, focused on continuous improvement.



Eligibility for Comprehensive and Equity Supports

Additionally, the Annual Snapshot will serve to determine which schools are eligible for Comprehensive and Equity Supports under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). About a dozen schools most in need of support based on academic proficiency will receive additional Comprehensive Supports to address their continuous improvement initiatives. The comprehensive supports include additional funding for continuous improvement, along with consultation and assistance from the AOE's Education Quality Division. Schools that have a pervasive gap between historically marginalized students and their historically privileged peers will be eligible for Equity Supports to help narrow their performance gaps.

"As an agency and as a state, we are dedicated to helping those most in need," said Secretary French. "Comprehensive and Equity Supports are one way that we are trying to ensure that all students in Vermont have access to a high-quality education."

The Annual Snapshot will be released in three stages. The initial version will be released in June with data on a limited number of indicators. A second version will be released in the fall with additional indicators. The full version will be released in December 2019.

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