

# Memo

September 11, 2024

To: Roles & Responsibilities Committee  
Vermont State Board of Education

From: Tammy Kolbe

Re: Draft process for considering and updating standards for student performance

This memorandum describes a proposed process for the Vermont State Board of Education (SBE) to follow when considering potential updates to existing standards or new standards for student performance. The process described below reflects my understanding of what the Roles and Responsibilities Subcommittee discussed at its September 3, 2024 meeting.

The next step in the process is for the Subcommittee to discuss the draft text for the proposed process at its next meeting, make necessary revisions, and submit the proposed process to the full Board for its consideration.

## Proposed Process for Updating Existing or Considering New Standards for Student Performance

### Intake

Statute requires the SBE to “implement and continually update standards for student performance in appropriate content areas and at appropriate intervals in the continuum from kindergarten to grade 12 and methods of assessment to determine attainment of the standards for student performance” (16 VSA Sec 164(9)). That said, statute is silent on how the SBE might identify or receive standards for its consideration.

The subcommittee considered two possible ways the SBE might receive standards for consideration - standards might be proposed or recommended by: 1) the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE); or 2) an outside entity or constituent group. The Committee did not consider a process where the SBE developed or proposed standards on its own.

When standards are received by the SBE, either from AOE or some other entity, the proposing entity will:

1. Provide the SBE with the standards as an electronic document for the Board's review.
2. Present the standards to the SBE at a meeting of the full board, at which time the presenters will be available to respond to board members' questions.

Following the presentation, the SBE will determine whether the Board has sufficient information about the standards to initiate its review. If the Board finds that there is sufficient information to initiate its review, then the Board may:

- 1) Refer the standards to the SBE's Educational Quality Standards (EQS) subcommittee for further consideration; or
- 2) Move to vote to approve or disapprove the standards, as proposed.

### Referring Standards to the EQS Subcommittee

In instances where standards are referred to the EQS subcommittee for further consideration, the subcommittee shall, at its first opportunity, develop a plan and timeline for reviewing the proposed standards. The plan should include opportunities for the EQS subcommittee to take in and consider public comment on the proposed standards, and for standards not proposed by the AOE, review and comment by the Agency.

The EQS subcommittee chair(s) will submit the plan and timeline to the full SBE for its consideration at its next full board meeting, at which time the full board will vote to approve or disapprove the plan and timeline.

The EQS subcommittee will update the full board on its progress in considering the proposed standards at the SBE's monthly meetings. Subsequent modifications to the initial plan and timeline shall be approved by the full board.

### Recommendations by the EQS Subcommittee

At the conclusion of its work, the EQS subcommittee will make a recommendation to the full board as to:

- a) approve the standards, with no modifications;

b) approve the standards, with modifications; or

c) not approve the proposed standards.

The EQS subcommittee will provide the full Board with written justification for its recommendations for modifying a proposed standard and its recommendation not to approve a proposed standard.

### Board's Consideration for EQS Subcommittee's Recommendations

At its first opportunity after receiving the EQS subcommittee's recommendation, the full Board will consider the EQS subcommittee's recommendation(s) and will, by vote of the full board, approve or disapprove the proposed standards.