

Vermont Board of Education:

Please consider the following suggestions with your update to the Education Quality Standards.

- a.
- b. The integrated field review process should include site visits of all schools within a Supervisory Union / School District - not just
- c. the Supervisory Union office. The Agency of Education should not be allowed to make a determination that a school complies with EQS unless there has been an integrated field review that included a site visit by an external team to the school within the prior
- d. 5 years for which the determination is being made for.
- e.

- b.
- c. Require schools to conduct an annual survey of parents and guardians, using a standard format and method set by the Agency of Education,
- d. to measure parent / guardian assessment of the quality of instruction, diversity of educational opportunities, school safety, and support for students from historically marginalized groups. Survey results should be submitted to the Agency of Education (and
- e. IFR team) and made available to the public. Survey results should be used by the Agency as input to consider when determining whether a school meets EQS and whether a school is providing educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other
- f. schools.
- g.

- c.
- d. Establish a minimum number of full time equivalent professional staff required to be employed by a school. A suggested number to
- e. consider would be 5 FTE. With less than 5 staff, a school is likely to be too small to provide sufficient diversity of experiences for students to receive a quality education that is substantially equal to their peers in other schools. In addition to quality,
- f. there are also issues with capacity and safety with too few adults staffed in a building.
- g.

- d.
- e. Create a process for school board members, staff, students, parents, guardians, and other members of the public to request the Agency
- f. of Education to conduct a review of a school's compliance with EQS. If a request is based on credible allegations of noncompliance of EQS rules, the Agency would be required to initiate a compliance review and issue public findings that the Agency would rely
- g. on when making a determination of a school's compliance with EQS and whether a school is providing educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other schools.
- h.

Regards,
Robert Smith (Taxpayer and Parent)