



STATE OF VERMONT
SENATE CHAMBER
115 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05633-5201

To: Jennifer Samuelson, and Vermont Board of Education

From: The Windsor County Senate Delegation

Date: October 18, 2023

Re: Standards

We write with two concerns about provisions in the proposed Curriculum Quality Standards . First, we urge you to include a history of oppression and/or genocide in the list of criteria for groups warranting attention. Surely genocidal oppression, the threat of the extinction of a people, is at the top of the list of moral outrages with tragic consequences deserving special attention in the curriculum.

Unfortunately, oppression including genocide is a present, as well as historical, reality. Consider the recent appearance of swastikas in our state. In 2023, some may be tempted to minimize this as adolescent vandalism, to see antisemitism as the anachronistic domain of ignorant and irrelevant bigots. But, while the swastika is an attack on the decency of all Vermonters, it is an especially threatening insult to Jewish Vermonters, a threat of genocide. Today. Here.

We urge you, as well to be clear that Vermonters' public tax dollars should support only institutions that comply with state requirements, and that those requirements must include the equal rights of minority, disabled, and LGBTQ+ students.

Thank you for your service to our children. And thank you for considering these concerns.

State Senator Dick McCormack

State Senator Alison Clarkson

State Senator Rebecca White