

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
Montpelier, Vermont**

**TEAM:** School Finance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of general and special education independent school approval to Kindle Farm in Newfane, VT, to enable the school to serve students in grades 2-12 and to add the disability category of speech language impairment to its current disability category offerings?

**SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the State Board of Education grants renewal of general and special education independent school approval to Kindle Farm in Newfane, VT to enable the school to serve students in grades 2-12 and to add the disability category of speech language impairment to its current disability category offerings. This approval is for five years through June 30, 2027.**

**This approval is conditional on the requirement that the school reports to the Agency of Education within five business days whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing or administration during the approval period.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Title 16 V.S.A. § 166 (b)  
State Board Rules 2200, 2228 et seq

1. An independent school may operate and provide elementary and secondary education if it is approved by the State Board of Education.
2. The State Board of Education shall approve an independent school if it substantially complies with the Board's rules for independent schools, promulgated as Series 2200 (Independent School Program Approval).

3. Kindle Farm is seeking to renew its general and special education approval and to add the disability category of speech language impairment to its current disability category offerings.
4. Kindle Farm was last granted renewal of State Board approval on June 20, 2016 through June 30, 2021, to serve students in grades 2-12, within the disability categories of specific learning disability, intellectual disability (mild), emotional disturbance, other health impairment, autism spectrum disorder (high functioning), traumatic brain injury, developmental delay, and multiple disabilities. Kindle Farm is seeking to add the disability category of speech language impairment to its current disability category offerings.
5. Four sections of the new independent school rules took effect upon adoption on May 10, 2022. Those rule are: Rule 2223 (Procedure), Rule 2224 (Reciprocity), Rule 2226 (Application) and Rule 2227 (Approval). Kindle Farm has provided a signed addendum attesting to meeting these new rules.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** none

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

Patrick Halladay, Director of Educator Quality Division  
Cassandra Ryan, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management