

**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 Manchester Village School in Manchester Center, VT to enable the school to serve students in grades 1-12, and to add the disability category of multiple disabilities 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 Manchester Village School in Manchester Center, VT to enable the school to serve students in grades 1-12, and to add the disability category of multiple disabilities 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. Manchester Village School is seeking to renew its general and special education approval and to request an amendment.
4. Manchester Village School was last granted renewal of State Board approval on June 20, 2016 through June 30, 2021, to serve students in grades 1-12, within the disability categories of intellectual disability, specific learning disability, emotional disturbance, other health impairment, speech language impairment, developmental delay, and autism spectrum disorder. A subsequent amendment on August 5, 2018 enabled the school to add traumatic brain injury to its approved disability categories. Manchester Village School is requesting an amendment to add multiple disabilities to its 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). Manchester Village School 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