

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant initial general independent school approval to the Pond Brook Project, Bristol, VT to serve students in grades 7-9?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants initial general independent school approval to the Pond Brook Project in Bristol, VT, to serve students in grades 7-9. This approval is for two years, through June 30, 2025, which is the maximum term for an initial approval.

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

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. Pond Brook Project is seeking initial general independent school approval to serve students in grades 7-9.
4. Four sections of the new independent school rules took effect upon adoption on May 10, 2022. Those rules are Rule 2223 (Procedure), Rule 2224 (Reciprocity), Rule 2226 (Application) and Rule 2227 (Approval). Pond Brook Project provided a signed addendum attesting to meeting these new rules.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Josh Souliere, Assistant Director of Educator Quality Division
Cassandra Ryan, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management