

Proposed Updates to the Vermont Educational Standards

*Act 1 Working Group
April 2022*



Overview



- Act 1 Working Group: Who We Are
- Our Project Goals
- Our Proposed Updates to the Vermont Educational Standards

What is Act 1?

- A 2019 Vermont law
- Created the **Act 1 Working Group** (also known as the **Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Working Group**)



What is the purpose of the Act 1 Working Group?

- To review the current Vermont State Education Standards and make recommendations for updates

AND

- To review State statutes, State Board rules, and school district and supervisory union policies that concern or impact standards for student performance or curriculum used in schools



Who is the Act 1 Working Group?

23

people who are **state leaders, high school students, and community members** and **care deeply about education in Vermont**

Project Timeline

We are here!

August 2021

Our committee is created, and we pass a 1st draft of the EQS

Fall 2021

We share the draft with community members from all over Vermont and got their feedback.

Winter 2021/2022

The EQS sub-committee worked to incorporate all of the changes

Spring/Summer 2022

Not sure if it's spring...
April 14th vote on current EQS.

How we used community feedback

Community gave us feedback, including working group members.

Each comment related to a paragraph was incorporated into one document and working group members had access to all submissions

ALL learners in Vermont have a strong learning environment that supports them in reaching their goals



Education Standards Project: Goals

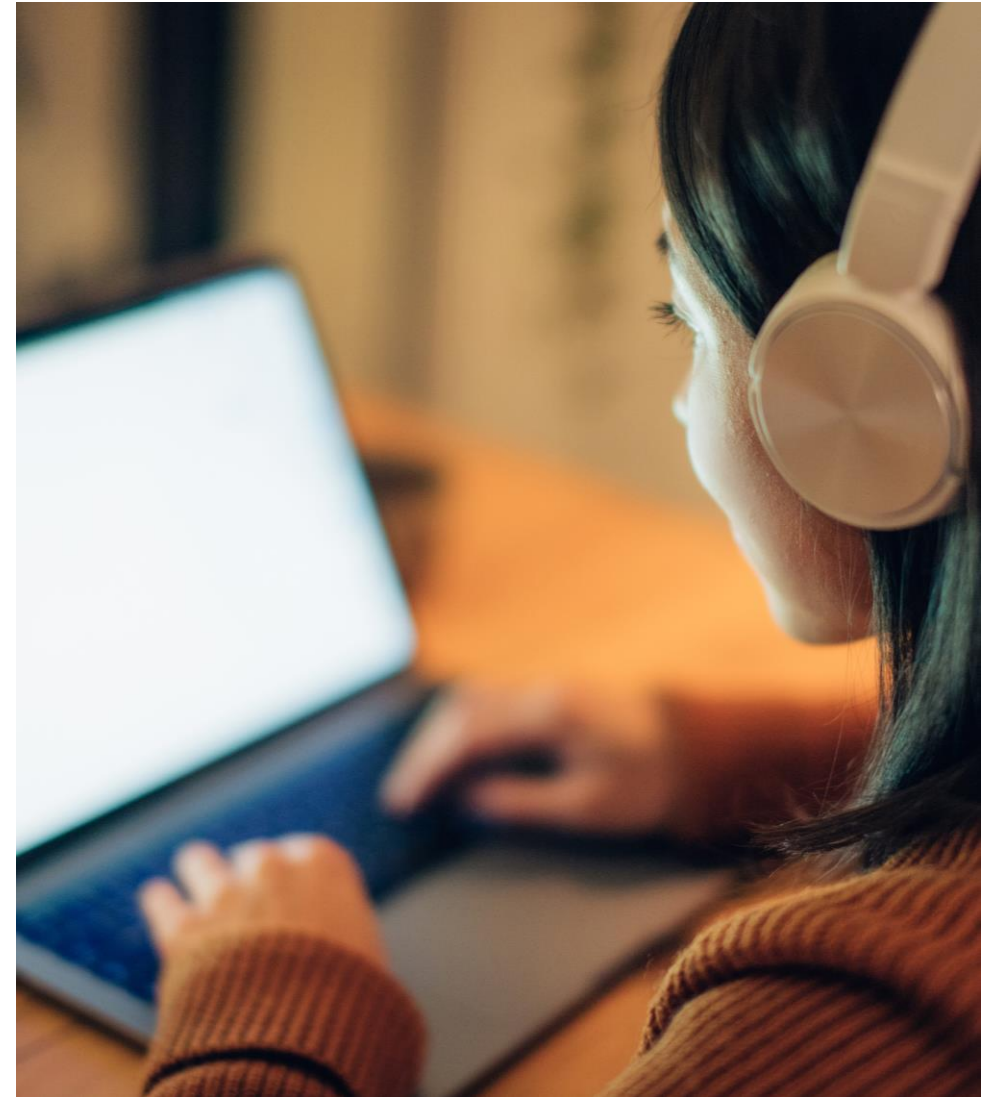
#1

Promote critical thinking regarding the history, contribution, and perspectives of ethnic groups and social groups;



#2

include content and related instructional materials and methods that enable students to explore safely questions of identity and membership in ethnic groups and social groups, race equality, and racism; and



#3

facilitate a welcoming environment for all students while taking into account parental concerns about bias or exclusion of ethnic groups or social groups; and



#4

**Identifying
more ways
families can
share input
with schools
going forward**



#6

Ensuring engagement opportunities that provide families a welcoming means of raising any concern about their child's experience as it bears on race or ethnic or social group identity at school



#5

More on the Act. 1 Law..



Changes We Are Suggesting

Overview Areas

- ✓ **Statement of Purpose**
- ✓ **Discrimination**
- ✓ **Definitions**



Overview Areas

- ✓ **Curriculum Content**
- ✓ **Curriculum Planning**
- ✓ **Teacher Support**
- ✓ **Teaching Practices**



Student Supports

- ✓ **Accessible Materials**
- ✓ **Career + Technical Education**
- ✓ **Counseling + Support Services**
- ✓ **Flexible Pathways**
- ✓ **Graduation Requirements**



School Administration

- ✓ **School Feedback**
- ✓ **School Improvement Plans**
- ✓ **School Leadership**
- ✓ **School Board Annual Reviews**



Challenges

- **Understanding of the EQS Rule**
- **Language Accessibility**
- **Time**





Questions?

Amanda Garces - Co-Chair
Director of Policy, Education and Outreach
Vermont Human Rights Commission
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Mark Hage
Representative appointed by the Education
Justice Coalition

Thank you!

