

**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 in the disability categories of Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Delay, Traumatic Brain Injury, Multiple Disabilities, Emotional Disturbance, Specific Learning Disabilities, and Other Health Impairment, and in addition approve the addition of an upper elementary program for grades 4-6 to Maplehill School, Plainfield, VT to serve students in grades 4-12?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grant renewal of general and special education independent school approval in the disability categories of Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Delay, Traumatic Brain Injury, Multiple Disabilities, Emotional Disturbance, Specific Learning Disabilities, and Other Health Impairment, and in addition approve the addition of an upper elementary program for grades 4-6 to Maplehill School, Plainfield, VT to serve students in grades 4-12.

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. Maplehill School is seeking renewal of general and special education independent school approval in the disability categories of Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Delay, Traumatic Brain Injury, Multiple Disabilities, Emotional Disturbance, Specific Learning Disabilities, and Other Health Impairment, and the addition of an upper elementary program to serve children in grades 4-6.
4. Maplehill School was last granted renewal of State Board approval on June 20, 2016 through June 30, 2021, to serve students in grades 7-12, within the disability areas listed above. Maplehill School is also requesting the addition of an upper elementary program to serve students in grades 4-6.
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). Maplehill 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