



Vermont Independent
Schools Association

May 7, 2018

Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary
Vermont Agency of Education
Via email: amy.fowler@vermont.gov

Dear Deputy Secretary Fowler:

I have recently reviewed the "Independent School GenEd Checklist," a document the Agency of Education provides to the contract consultants who visit independent schools as a part of the agency's review of schools' applications for new or renewed State Board of Education approval.

In my review I found three questions to be unrelated to and unsupported by the statute and rules specifying what information independent schools must submit for approval. The statute and rules are 16 V.S.A. § 166 (b) and in the 2200 Series of State Board of Education rules.

Two questions in the "Admissions" section on page 1, ask if admissions decisions are made by a committee and if any students have not been admitted within the past two years. And, in the series of "Professional Staff" questions on page 3, a question asks if any staff members have been asked to leave in the past two years.

School approvals may not be contingent on responses to these questions. Data from these questions should neither be collected nor placed on the public record. Therefore, I request these inappropriate questions be deleted from the Independent School GenEd Checklist.

The Agency and the Vermont Independent Schools Association worked together very constructively during 2014 on developing the online questionnaire independent schools must complete when preparing their renewal submissions. A similar cooperative effort can bring the GenEd Checklist into conformance with statute and rules.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mill Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mill Moore, Executive Director