

**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 the New England School for Girls (NESFG) in Bennington, VT, to serve female-identifying students ages 11-21?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of general and special education independent school approval to the New England School for Girls, Bennington, VT, to serve female-identifying students ages 11-21. This approval is for five years, through June 30, 2028.

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. New England School for Girls and Vermont School for Girls previous operated as two separate entities. These two schools combined and are seeking renewal of general and special education independent school approval to serve female-identifying students ages 11-21.
4. Both New England School for Girls and Vermont School for Girls previously were granted renewal of State Board approval on December 19, 2018 through June 30, 2021, to serve students in ages 11-21.
5. 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). NESFG has provided a signed addendum attesting to meeting these new rules.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Josh Souliere, Interim Director of Educator Quality Division