

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Montpelier, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant an amendment to the general and special education independent school approval for The Arlington School in St. Johnsbury, VT to enable the school to increase the maximum student enrollment from 40 to 45?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants an amendment to the general and special education independent school approval for The Arlington School in St. Johnsbury, VT to enable the school to increase the maximum student enrollment from 40 to 45 for a term through June 30, 2021 to coincide with the school's current approval period; and

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 Rule: 2228 et seq

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. The Arlington School is an independent day school that provides educational, vocational, and community-based services to male and female youth in grades 8-12, within the disability categories of Emotional Disabilities (ED), Intellectual Disability (ID), Specific Learning Disability (SLD), Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Other Health Impairment (OHI). Students are encouraged to increase their growing independence with opportunities for responsible decision-making. Curriculum is process-oriented, project-based and experiential in nature. Courses are designed to challenge the individual learning needs of all students. Northeastern Family Institute (NFI), Inc. in conjunction with Northeast Kingdom Human Services, operates The Arlington School.

2. The Arlington School received renewal of general and special education independent school approval, to serve students in grades 8-12 on June 20, 2016 through June 30, 2021. A subsequent amendment was granted on December 19, 2018 to enable the school to serve students in the disability category of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).
3. The Arlington School has adequate staffing to support the increase in enrollment. The Arlington School also has policies for admissions, discipline and significant change in placement. These policies were reviewed and found to be appropriate.
4. The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is part of the school's philosophy and each student's placement is based on individual needs for a LRE.
5. The Arlington School will coordinate with Local Education Agencies through initiating referrals when appropriate, planning and participating in IEP meetings, providing information for evaluations, and planning and developing programs and accommodations.
6. The Arlington School has a policy on prevention and reporting of harassment, hazing, and bullying that is as stringent as the Agency's model policy.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

J. Deborah Ormsbee, Independent School Review Coordinator