

**Rule Series 2200
“Phase II” Updates**

**Presentation to the
Vermont State Board of Education
August 9, 2023**

Rule Series 2200 Subcommittee

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Categories of Work

- Apply the principles and goals of Act 1 (2019) to independent schools
- Create a requirement that all independent schools, as a condition of their approval, must annually attest to their compliance with the Rules
- Introduce a framework that accrediting agencies must follow in order to be recognized by the Board

Changes Related to Act 1 (2019)

- Board agreed in May that principles of Act 1 should apply to independent schools as a condition of their approval
 - “An act relating to ethnic and social equity studies standards for public schools”
- Board felt that Rule Series 2200 (not Rule Series 2000) was the appropriate mechanism by which to do so
 - Rule Series 2200: Independent School Program Approval
 - Rule Series 2000: Education Quality Standards for public schools and independent schools who seek designation as an “independent school meeting education quality standards”
- Committee copied language (“lift and shift”) to promote consistency between the two Rule Series

Annual Attestation Clause (Rule 2223.4)

- Closes gap in current Rule Series
- Reflects interest expressed by General Assembly
- Language developed in consultation with the Agency of Education
- Gives authority to the Secretary, in consultation with the Board, to prepare the form and make it available to schools
- Schools must complete form on an annual basis as a condition of their approved status
- Process set forth in cases where schools do not submit the Secretary's form

New Procedure by which to Recognize Accrediting Organizations (Rule 2227)

- Former Rule Series 7000
 - Outdated List
 - Board opened Rule Series in 2021
 - **Rule Series sunsets July 1, 2024.**
 - Board represented to LCAR that it would create a new framework by which it would recognize accrediting agencies and include it in Rule Series 2200
- Several options considered by 2200 Committee
 - Process in rule selected in consultation with New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE), and International Council Advancing Independent Accreditation (ICAISA)

Other Changes

- Introduction of term “approved school” which is defined to include both approved independent schools and approved independent schools that are ineligible to receive public funds
- Reorganization of Rule Series to be more user-friendly
- Cleaning up language to provide stylistic consistency
- Adding in reference to other requirements for approved schools that are already set forth in statute
- No substantive changes to “Phase I” updates since these just went through the formal APA rulemaking process last year

General Questions?

Please email any comments to me by Monday morning!