

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION  
Montpelier, Vermont**

**TEAM:** School Finance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant initial general independent school approval to United Christian Academy, Newport, VT to serve students in grades K-12?

**SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**That the State Board of Education grants conditional initial general independent school approval to United Christian Academy, Newport, VT, to serve students in grades K-12. This approval is for two years, through June 30, 2025, which is the maximum term for an initial approval.**

**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. This approval is also conditional on the requirement that by the March State Board of Education meeting, the school comes into compliance with the requirements of State Board of Education Rule 2226.6, which requires that an applicant make a “demonstration that the school substantially complies with all statutory requirements for approved independent schools, with documentation of . . . [a]n assurance, signed by the Head of School, that the school complies with the Vermont Public Accommodations Act in all aspects of the school's admissions and operations.”**

**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. United Christian Academy is seeking initial general independent school approval to serve students in grades K-12.
4. United Christian Academy is currently operating as a recognized independent school.
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). United Christian Academy provided an amended and signed addendum, which is the reason for the recommendation for a conditional approval.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** none

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

Josh Souliere, Assistant Director of Educator Quality Division

Cassandra Ryan, Director of Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management