

Dear Jamilah,

Thank you for sharing your support of the proposed EQS Rules and your perspective from the field. We will add your comments to our materials for the upcoming meeting discussion.

Thank you for your commitment to students, families and this important work.

Best,
Kim

From: Jamilah Vogel <jamilah.vogel@colchestersd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 1:50 PM
To: Gleason, Kimberly G <Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov>; Kolbe, Tammy <Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov>
Subject: EQS and Act 1

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Kim Gleason, Tammy Kolbe, and members of the State Board of Education EQS Committee,

I, Jamilah Vogel, am writing to you as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator for the Colchester School District. I am also writing to you as a VT resident living in South Burlington. I am eagerly anticipating acceptance of the recommended changes to the Education Quality Standards (EQS), which will promote critical thinking, diversity of voice, and multi-ethnic/cultural/racial perspectives on history and current events. Most importantly, these changes will address academic, disciplinary, and social emotional disparities that we know exist because of historic systems of marginalization. Act 1 acknowledges specifically racial disparities. When we work to resolve these and build more equitable and inclusive systems, we benefit all.

This work is important because individual educators, schools and districts need support and guidance from the state to keep equity and ethnic studies at the forefront of growth and innovation in education. There are multitude of seemingly competing priorities, countermovements, and ever dwindling resources to do this important work. School leaders, even the best of intended leaders, struggle to place equity at the center. If the state board will lead the way by adopting these changes to EQS, hold schools accountable, and provide guidance, equity can be woven into the fabric of the business of school so that our efforts will be integrated and sustainable. Equity will no longer live in a silo or be relegated to a passion project for invested individuals who must constantly shore up against a tide of naysayers or simply tired overwhelmed educators who cannot see the way forward.

So much of this work is already under way, and the support of the State Board of Education has been felt and continues to strengthen the ability of schools to press on. Those of us on the field depend on you to uphold equity priorities while we work on implementation. That said, the road is long, and the proposed recommendations will provide necessary guidelines and support to stay the course. Thank you for all that you do for our schools, students, educators, and communities.

Please adopt these EQS recommendations submitted by the Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Working Group so we can better serve all students in Vermont schools.

Sincerely,

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Jamilah Freya Vogel

she/her

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator

Colchester School District

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“We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change... We need not wait to see what others do.” – Mahatma Gandhi