

State Board of Education Education Quality Standards Rule Update Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Virtual Teams Meeting/Video/Teleconference

Call in #: 1-802-828-7667

Conference ID: 539 971 314#

Date: February 16, 2023

Present:

State Board of Education (SBE) Committee Members: Patrick Brown, Kim Gleason, Tammy Kolbe, and Tom Lovett

Agency of Education (AOE): Emily Simmons, Maureen Gaidys

Others:

Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. Brown, Gleason, Kolbe, and Lovett were present. Gleason noted that the Act 1 Working Group would not be present for this meeting, but would be attending the next meeting, February 21, 2023, with feedback on the EQS Committee changes to the Draft EQS.

Public to be Heard

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

Approve February 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Kolbe made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2023 meeting. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Discussion/Edits

- Emily Simmons, for the AOE provided testimony and feedback on the technical correction to the Draft EQS:

- o the AOE agrees with the change in title of Section 2111 from "Adoption of Performance Standards" to "Adoption of Content Area Standards".
- o the AOE agrees with the subcommittee suggestion that Section 2114(5) Career Technical Education (CTE) definition be revised to read, "an educational program that is designed to provide students with technical knowledge, skills and aptitudes to prepare them for a high school diploma, further education, enhance their employment options or lead to a postsecondary ..."
- o The subcommittee suggests that Section 2114(37) Supervisory union/Supervisory district (SU/SD) definition be revised to read, "Supervisory union/Supervisory District (SU/SD) means an administrative, planning, and educational service unit created by the State Board of Education. A Supervisory Union (SU) consists of two or more school district, and/or supervisory districts. A Supervisory District (SD) consists of only one school district and may be a unified union school district, inclusive of multiple towns."
 - The AOE recognized that this is not the same as the definition being used in the District Quality Standards (DQS) as filed with ICAR (**see attached**) but was ok with that difference given the different purpose for each set of rules.
 - The AOE clarified that a Supervisory Union consists of two or more school districts (but does not include "supervisory districts"). The EQS Committee updated the definition to reflect that correction.
- o In Section 2125 the Act 1 Working Group revised the language to strike the term "may" and replaced with "shall" to preference "include data ..." We requested AOE's input on whether this change from "may" to "shall" is consistent with statute and AOE's existing policies.
 - AOE indicated they believed that this should remain "may" to allow for flexibility in how data is reported.
 - with respect to revisions to EQS and intersection with existing law, Simmons indicated that the SBE legal counsel would need to provide that feedback and/or confer with her directly.
 - The EQS Committee discussed the reporting of data and recognized that without requiring disaggregation of data to reflect the equity indicators being required of these updates to EQS, there will be no way to determine the effect of the educational efforts, nor any opportunity for accountability to the equity objectives of the EQS
 - The EQS Committee agreed that this should be a "shall" requirement, and that the co-chairs should review section 2124 and 2125 to determine how best to align these requirements with reporting that is currently required for federal and state purposes

- o Brown noted this is 21st century best practice in all aspects of data review, not just education.
- The co-chairs will provide draft language for the committee review at the next meeting.
- the subcommittee flagged *Sections 2124 Reporting of Results, 2125 Continuous Improvement Plan* and *2126 System of Determining Compliance with EQS* of the rule as sections that need to align with the proposed DQS and QA process developed by the Agency. Simmons suggested that Section 2126 be struck in its entirety, and for compliance districts would refer to DQS. Simmons also suggested consideration of striking 2125 Continuous Improvement Plan, but that was a larger “ask”.
 - o Gleason inquired about the DQS and whether compliance and accountability are considered through an equity lens. Simmons referred the committee to the AOE Purpose Statement and the *102 Statement of Purpose*
 - o The EQS Committee discussed integration with DQS in 2126 and will maintain 2125 in accordance with current legislation. Edits to 2125 & 2126 will be drafted by the co-chairs for review by the full committee at the next meeting.
- The EQS Committee discussed *Section 2127 Variance and Waivers*, and felt that section should remain. There was also recognition that *2128 Effective Date* and implementation schedule have not been determined and that the EQS Committee can put a timeline in the draft, and adjust as necessary if there should be changes through the ICAR formal feedback process.

Future Agenda Items

- Next meeting dates: TBD
 - o Act 1 feedback on Committee Edits
 - o Review of current documents for independent school approval and NEASC and AISNE addenda for approval of Vermont Independent Schools (Lovett to provide those materials)
 - o Update on legal review
 - o Possible Committee vote on Committee proposed draft for full board consideration

Adjourn

Lovett made a motion to adjourn at 12:52 p.m. Brown seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Kim Gleason
Co-Chair, EQS Committee