

## 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: 732 085 520#

**Date: February 21, 2023**

#### **Present:**

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

Agency of Education (AOE): Maureen Gaidys

Others: Mark Hage and Amanda Garces, Act 1 Working Group Co-Chairs

#### **Call to Order/Roll Call/Amendments to Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 11:31 a.m. Brown, Gleason, Kolbe, and Lovett were present.

#### **Public to be Heard**

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

#### **Approve February 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Lovett made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting. Brown seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Committee Discussion/Edits**

Invited Testimony - Act 1 Working Group Feedback on Committee Edits

- Mark Hage and Amanda Garces of the Act 1 Working Group provided feedback on the edits that the EQS Committee has made to the EQS Committee Working Draft. **(See attached request for Act 1 Working Group feedback)**

- Hage began by inquiring about the change to the Statement of Purpose that removed the reference to the requirement that Independent Schools comply with the EQS.
  - Gleason clarified that the *2110 Statement of Purpose* was reworded to center all Vermont students, and did not distinguish where they attend school. She also noted that in the *2100 Statutory Authority*, the EQS Committee noticed that there should be an **update to include 16 VSA Section 906, and Act 1 of 2019**
  - Kolbe clarified that section 2112 Education Quality Standards referenced the statute that governs and would be current if the statute should change. This section will also be **updated to include reference to 16 VSA Section 906 and Act 1 of 2019**
  - Hage and Garces reiterated the sentiment of all but one Act 1 Working Group member (the Vermont Independent Schools Association) in ensuring that all approved independent school be required to comply with the EQS.
  - Kolbe indicated that Curriculum Instructional Strategies and Curriculum Content sections would apply according to 16 VSA Section 906, and would be referenced separately.
  
- For 2120.2 (d), the EQS Committee did not have a clear understanding of what the term “center” means in the context of this sentence for those trying to operationalize the rules. The Committee offered the following placeholder, for Act 1 Working Group review: a.) “...offer resources and learning opportunities that *provide experiences that give exposure to disability-related issues.*” Hage and Garces indicated that they felt it best to consult with leaders in the disability community (e.g., Special Education Advisory Panel, Vermont Center for Independent Living) for their feedback, and didn’t feel like the edit the EQS Committee made captured the intent of that bullet.
  
- With respect to whether or not it is necessary to define “neurodiversity”, Hage and Garces said if the EQS Committee is interested in doing so, the Act 1 Working Group can offer language for consideration, but will leave the decision on whether or not the definition of “neurodiversity” is necessary to the EQS Committee/State Board of Education.
  
- Hage and Garces indicated the Act 1 Working Group support of the other more general language edits and alignment, and appreciated the additional clarity they provide for those operationalizing these rules.

### Section 2124 - 2126 Suggested Edits:

- Kolbe offered a restructuring of *Section 2124 Reporting of Results* to specify what shall be reported to the community annually and how that data and information must be disaggregated.
  
- *Section 2125 Continuous Improvement Plan* is updated to highlight the equity language captured in the Statement of Purpose and throughout

the document. This section also refers back to 2124 to ensure consistency of reporting of results in a disaggregated manner.

- Section 2125 also makes reference to the DQS/QA Rule (tbd), as a replacement for *2126 System for Determining Compliance with Education Quality Standards*. **There will need to be discussion about the timeline for implementation, and renumbering the remaining sections if 2126 is completely deleted from EQS versus remaining and referring to the AOE rule for DQS/QS.**
- The EQS Committee appreciated the clarity of the reformatting of those two sections, and co-chairs will incorporate those changes.

### **Consideration of Sections that should apply to approved independent schools in alignment with 16 VSA 906 and Act 1 of 2019:**

- The EQS Committee acknowledged that the following sections should apply to Independent Schools in alignment with 16 V.S.A. 906 and Act 1 of 2019:
  - *2114 Definitions*
  - *2120.1 Instructional Practice*
  - *2120.5 Curriculum Content*
- The EQS Committee had questions for legal review regarding the applicability of the following sections for independent school compliance, and where there is alignment with current statute:
  - *2113 Federal and State Entitlements; Nondiscrimination*
    - Is this language consistent with or in conflict with the 2200 Rules and approval requirements, and/or Federal and State statutes which are applicable to independent schools?
  - *2120 Curriculum Instruction*
    - Which sections of 2120, in addition to *2120.1 Instructional Practice* and *2120.5 Curriculum Content*, are required for independent schools in alignment with 16 VSA 906 or Act 1 2019, or other statute, currently or effective July 1, 2023? (eg. *Flexible Pathways, Career and Technical Education, Personalized Learning Plans, Graduation Requirements*)
  - *2121 Professional Resources*
    - Specifically, does *2121.5 Tiered Systems of Support* apply to approved independent schools after July 1, 2023?
    - Do any other sections apply to approved independents already (or effective July 1, 2023)?
  - *2122 Learning Environment & 2123 State and Local Comprehensive Assessment System*

- Do either of these sections currently apply to independent schools, per the 16 VSA 1161a(a) or 16 VSA 164 (9)? What is already required of independent schools in these categories?
  - *2124 Reporting of Results*
    - EQS Committee discussed but didn't decide, as redrafted, the extent to which student data should be reported and disaggregated for independent schools in alignment with statute (Act 1 of 2019)?
- Section 2125 also makes reference to the DQS/QA Rule (TBD), as a replacement for *2126 System for Determining Compliance with Education Quality Standards*. **There will need to be discussion about the timeline for implementation, and renumbering the remaining sections if 2126 is completely deleted versus remaining and referring to the AOE rule for DQS/QS.**

### Future Agenda Items

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

### Adjourn

Lovett made a motion to adjourn at 1:02 p.m. Brown seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Kim Gleason Co-Chair, EQS Committee