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Sent: Monday, September 18, 2023 4:52 PM

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Subject: Rule Series 2000 - Education Quality Standards

Chairperson Samuelson,

I see nothing in the rule or proposed amendments that makes it explicit that these Education Quality Standards will apply to voucher-supported private schools. The Rule should be explicit in this regard. If the Board deems these Standards important enough that they must be followed by public schools, then they should be binding on all schools that receive public dollars. If the rule is silent, it suggests that the Board would tolerate some lesser standard of equity in publicly funded private schools. Vermont's voucher system has expanded over the years with insufficient guardrails; this is an opportunity to say clearly that all schools receiving public dollars must follow the same rules.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Molly Bachman

former General Counsel to the Vermont Agency of Education and former General Counsel to the Vermont Department of Taxes