



Vermont
Superintendents
Association



November 14, 2022

To: State Board of Education EQS Subcommittee

From: Sue Ceglowski, Executive Director, Vermont School Boards Association
Jeffrey Francis, Executive Director, Vermont Superintendents Association
Jay Nichols, Executive Director, Vermont Principals' Association

Re: Proposed Revisions to the Education Quality Standards (EQS) - Section 2110

Thank you for the invitation to submit comment to the State Board EQS Subcommittee on the proposed revisions to EQS Section 2110 (Statement of Purpose) as recommended by the Act 1 Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Working Group (Working Group).

On October 28, Chelsea Myers, Associate Executive Director for the Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA), and VSA's representative to the Working Group attended the Subcommittee meeting and spoke for our Associations in support of the EQS recommendations as submitted by the Working Group. A copy of the testimony that Chelsea presented is attached.

To reiterate, each of our Associations had representation on the Working Group and each Association representative participated in the development of the EQS recommendations and **voted to support** the recommendations as submitted to the State Board of Education, including the **Statement of Purpose and the proposed inclusion of approved independent schools.**

At this time when the public education system, the State Board of Education, the Working Group and many others are very necessarily and very appropriately focused on promoting, pursuing and achieving equity, inclusion and belonging in our shared society, our Associations firmly believe it is imperative that all reasonably available measures should be taken to accomplish those ends for **all** students.

To that end, approved independent schools, in their role as entities *delivering publicly-funded education* to students who, but for the fact that their district of residence does not operate a public school would *be served in a public school*, should be required to abide by the Education Quality Standards, just like the public schools.

The publicly-funded students served by the approved independent schools and our shared society will be the beneficiaries.

Thank you.



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October 28, 2022

To: State Board of Education - Education Quality Standards Rule Update Committee

From: The Vermont School Boards Association, The Vermont Superintendents Association, and the Vermont Principals' Association

Re. Proposed rewrite to the Education Quality Standards

The Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA), Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA), and Vermont Principals' Association (VPA) write this memo in full support of creating more inclusive and culturally responsive Education Quality Standards for Vermont's school districts.

We would like to convey three main points:

1. The intent and language included in the revised EQS are aligned with each of our mission statements and our [shared definition of educational equity](#), which emphasize the importance of a high-quality education system for all students.
2. VSBA, VSA, and VPA each have a designated representative on the Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group. VSA and VPA's representatives have both sat on the Education Quality Standards Committee for the better part of this year. Each association gathered extensive feedback from members for two of the iterations of the revised EQS. The process was inclusive and provided extensive conversation on how to use language that best fit the needs of education stakeholders while maintaining the integrity of the intent of the working group as a whole. The process resulted in each of our Associations voting affirmatively to send this proposal to the State Board of Education.
3. It is imperative that school boards, administrators, and educators are not left to implement these revisions without support. Implementing with fidelity will need coordination, resources, and a commitment from decision-makers to make this the priority for schools. There are many great examples of implementation already occurring across the state that need to be amplified and shared statewide.

Thank you for your commitment to seeing this work through.