

TO: Vermont State Board of Education
FROM: Adrienne Raymond
RE: Public Comments - Rule Series 2000 Proposed Changes
DATE: October 3, 2023

My name is Adrienne Raymond and I am a recently retired schoolboard member. I've served on behalf of my community, the Town of Shrewsbury, on multiple school boards at every level for over 20yrs and was a member of the Act 46 merger committee that created the Mill River Unified Union School District. I am finishing up a last term on the Vermont School Boards Association Board of Directors this month. I currently serve as a Vermont Employer Healthcare Commissioner. Putting all of that aside, this evening I speak as an interested, private citizen.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my general support for the Vermont Education Quality Standards that are currently under review by this board.

I support the adoption of these Quality Standards because they create clear expectations and requirements for schools that are held to these rules. The Standards support and require equitable, anti-racist, culturally responsive, and anti-discriminatory educational opportunities that are inclusive and accessible for every Vermont student. I believe that Vermont needs statewide Quality Standards to ensure that all of Vermont's students are being offered an equitable education in every publicly funded school in the State of Vermont.

This brings me to my "general" support of the proposed Standards changes. I cannot fully support adopting Standards that should be helping to create equitable systems throughout the State of Vermont, but will not be doing so, because they will not be applied to every publicly funded school. Vermont has created a 2-tiered educational system and these standards would have helped to decrease the systemic disparity, but they won't, if they aren't applied to all. Please support the Quality Standards and then apply them to all publicly funded schools.

Thank you for your attention.

Submitted by
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