



Vermont
Superintendents
Association

Date: October 15, 2023

To: Vermont State Board of Education

From: Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA);

Chelsea Myers, Associate Executive Director

Re: Series 2000 -- Education Quality Standards

The Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA) writes this memo to support achieving more inclusive and culturally responsive standards, policies, and practices for Vermont's school districts. VSA was a committed thought partner in the Act 1 Working Group and seeks to ensure that all of the necessary support structures are in place for school administrators to implement the changes reflected in the Education Quality Standards with fidelity.

In an earlier feedback collection regarding the changes to the Education Quality Standards, one superintendent said, "The changes are very strong in terms of supporting the direction we want schools to take toward becoming anti-racist and socially, culturally, and linguistically responsive." While another added, "It is inspiring, exciting and somewhat daunting. I would only add that, from a practical lens, we should start thinking ahead about ensuring the most effective technical assistance is provided to support us and our systems in implementation." To that end, VSA would like to provide three feedback points at the conclusion of this public comment period.

1. Superintendents are eager to have the work that they have embarked on at the local level supported by foundational state policy, guidance, and rules. At its core, this work is daunting for school administrators and will require a tremendous amount of coordinated support from state leaders and local and national experts, as well as fiscal resources. It is important to note to the State Board and to legislative leaders that there are a number of initiatives and unfunded mandates that educators are contending with at this time.
2. Approved independent schools, in their role as entities delivering publicly-funded education to students with a district of residence that does not operate a public school, should be required to abide by the same standards as public schools.
3. In recognition of the work of the Census-Based Funding Advisory Group under Act 173 of 2018, the State Board should align language in the Education Quality Standards regarding multi-tiered systems of support with language from Act 173 with the aim to create standards for more consistent implementation across the state.

Thank you for your commitment to this important work.