



Mary Newman
Head of School

The State Board of Education
1 National Life Drive, Davis 5
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

From: Mary Newman, Head of School, The Sharon Academy

Subject: Feedback on Proposed Changes to Rule Series 2200

On behalf of The Sharon Academy, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed updates to Rule Series 2200. These changes reflect a thoughtful and balanced approach to evolving educational standards, and we are particularly gratified by the incorporation of recommendations from the Act 1 Working Group, which focus on ethnic and social equity studies.

As an institution with a significant number of marginalized students, we recognize the importance of these updates in promoting a more inclusive and equitable educational environment. The proposed rules align well with our commitment to continuous development in meeting the diverse needs of our student body.

We also welcome the effort to reorganize the rules for improved clarity and accessibility. This makes it easier for schools like ours to understand and adhere to the guidelines, ensuring better compliance and implementation.

The requirement for approved independent schools to provide annual compliance attestations is a positive step towards maintaining high educational standards and accountability. It is crucial for independent schools to remain in compliance with state and federal rules and regulations, and this annual attestation process reinforces that commitment.

Additionally, we support the establishment of a process for external accreditation agencies to be recognized as accreditors by the State Board of Education. This helps in maintaining the quality and integrity of independent schools.

While we appreciate the significant revisions made to Rule Series 2200 a few years ago, we believe that the current proposed updates are beneficial additions. We would like to emphasize the need for a period of stability following these updates, allowing schools to fully integrate and adapt to these changes.

Lastly, we would like to extend our thanks to the State Board of Education for their diligent work and for providing a platform for public input. This collaborative approach is essential for the continuous improvement of our educational system.

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We look forward to the successful implementation of these updates and are eager to continue contributing positively to Vermont's educational landscape.

Thank you for considering our feedback.

Sincerely,

Mary Newman

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