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**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2023 10:23 AM

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**Subject:** Public Comment EQS

Hello and thank you for the work you are doing to ensure quality and inclusive education for students all over Vermont.

My name is Jamilah Vogel and I work as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator for the Colchester School District. I am writing today in support of the changes to the EQS and I fully stand behind the current draft that reflects the incredible work of the Act 1 working group. The changes to the EQS demonstrate Vermont's ongoing commitment to ALL students and to substantively address current and long standing disparities.

I also know that schools that are engaging deeply in equity are under pressure due to misinformation that is causing some people to be afraid of DEI efforts. The state now has the opportunity to stand behind schools and support our commitment to creating learning environments where students can feel belonging, are challenged, and will thrive. I hope that these changes will be approved and that schools will be supported to meet the standards that are represented within.

Thank you for your consideration of my public testimony,

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Jamilah Freya Vogel  
she/her  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator  
Colchester School District  
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“We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change... We need not wait to see what others do.” – Mahatma Gandhi