



State of Vermont
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Commissioner Vilaseca's Statement in Response to Changing School Configurations

In recent months I have received several requests from Superintendents interested in making changes to their school configurations for the purpose of school accountability (AYP). These requests are most often to split a 7-12 school into two separate components (7-8 and 9-12). Although I do not disagree with that direction, I have come to the conclusion that this is not the time to make such changes.

We are currently awaiting the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) which will redefine how we hold schools accountable. The timing of this reauthorization is unclear and its impact on requirements is also unknown. At the same time, we are transitioning to a new set of common standards in mathematics and literacy and a new assessment of those standards. This is data that typically provides a foundation for accountability.

Once we know what will be expected of us in terms of federal assessment and accountability, we will be better able to consider what changes (including definition of schools) make the most sense and begin the process of revision. Until we have more information, I will not make changes that split existing school configurations.