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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals  
FROM: Amy Fowler, Deputy  
SUBJECT: New Assessment for Physical Education  
DATE: October 11, 2017

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The [Vermont ESSA State Plan](#), developed by the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) with significant stakeholder feedback, received official approval from the US Department of Education in September. As Vermont works to implement an accountability system that better reflects the state's education priorities as stated in Education Quality Standards, changes will need to be made at the state and local level.

One such change is the implementation of Physical Education assessments.

Vermont's EQS has articulated a commitment to approaches to education and evaluation that support the whole child and to the value of Physical Education (PE) in particular. We also know that healthier students perform better in every other aspect of school.

The Agency of Education has selected FitnessGram to serve as its statewide physical education assessment for state and federal accountability purposes. FitnessGram is a non-competitive fitness assessment developed in 1982 by The Cooper Institute, and is currently the most widely used fitness assessment tool nationally.

FitnessGram will be field tested statewide in the 2017-2018 school year. And it will be formally incorporated into the state's accountability system beginning in 2018-2019.

At this time, schools do not need to take action, and can wait for more information from the AOE. Once assessment testing modules, grade bands, and testing windows have been identified, that information will be shared.

To answer additional questions regarding the new PE assessment, the agency developed a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#). This FAQ provides introductory information about the assessment.

Other important State Plan changes requiring local-level action are identified on the [State Plan Readiness Checklist](#). As the details of these other changes emerge, the Agency of Education will release additional information regarding implementation.