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## **U.S. Department of Education Approves ESSA Vermont State Plan**

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**Barre, VT.** – Vermont has received approval from the U.S. Department of Education for its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan, Secretary Rebecca Holcombe announced today after being notified by Betsy DeVos, secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

States are required to outline their plans for spending federal funds, for measuring the skills students learn, and for supporting students in making academic progress. The plan must meet regulatory and statutory requirements, and provide parents and educators with quality, transparent information about how the plan will be implemented.

“Vermont’s state plan reflects the goals of Vermont’s Education Quality Standards by including measures to assess students’ readiness for post-secondary outcomes and their success in achieving those outcomes,” said Secretary Holcombe.

The Vermont State Plan maintains the original intent of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, which was re-authorized as ESSA by Congress in December 2015, with a foundational dedication to equity of opportunity by helping schools identify where equity gaps persist.

ESSA is the main federal law governing funding of public education and gives states more flexibility and more state and local control over the accountability process than its predecessor, The No Child Left Behind Act.

Vermont originally submitted the plan in April 2017 and received feedback from the federal department on Aug. 9 asking for revisions and clarifications to sections of the plan. The agency had 15 calendar days to respond, and received approval after working to create a thoughtful and effective plan.

“Vermont’s plan reflects Vermont’s simultaneous goals of supporting our most vulnerable students while focusing on solutions that are practical and effective to meet our educational needs,” Sec. Holcombe said. “We have worked hard to create a plan that values student success for all, both in the classroom and in preparing our students to be engaged and contributing citizens once they leave our schools.”

The ESSA Vermont state plan and approval letter are available at: [ESSA Vermont State Plan](#)

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