



Vermont State Board of Education Resolution
Acknowledging Robert C. Riley, Principal
Integrated Arts Academy at H.O. Wheeler Elementary School, Burlington School District
Recipient of the 2016 National Distinguished Principal Award
Adopted April 19, 2016

The Vermont State Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students develop the knowledge, capabilities and dispositions they need to thrive as citizens in their communities, higher education and their careers in the 21st century. A key component of developing these characteristics, through learning, is a diverse school environment that is fully committed to equity for all students.

These goals are uniquely reflected in the daily learning environment that is fostered at the Integrated Arts Academy ("IAA," Grades K-5), in the Burlington School District. It is one of just two "magnet" schools in the State of Vermont. Magnet school assistance is a key feature of the Every Student Succeeds Act – "ESSA." The ESSA law prioritizes the creation of magnet schools that promote socioeconomic integration and diversity, like the IAA (and the Sustainability Academy, also within the Burlington School District). This acknowledges a wide body of research that shows the socioeconomic composition of schools is an extremely significant factor affecting student achievement.

At the IAA, the magnet curriculum focus is a commitment to learning core subjects through arts-based instructional practices. This requires significant training and execution among the faculty and staff, on top of existing requirements associated with regular instructional practices and curriculum development. What underlies the magnet school mission of the IAA, is a passion for the work. At the IAA, that passion starts in the Principal's Office. From the "Monday Morning Meeting" to Friday Afternoon "Town Meeting," the school week is a community-based endeavor. Students, faculty, staff, and families come together to make the IAA a gateway to rich learning opportunities for every child. Robert C. Riley, or "Mr. Bobby" as he is known to all who enter through the IAA's doors, has demonstrated exceptional leadership in building an inclusive culture and school climate that strives to make learning a joyful experience for all students, while promoting fidelity to high academic standards.

2016 Recipient, National Distinguished Principal of the Year Award, State of Vermont

For all of his amazing effort and the results that are apparent at the IAA, Mr. Bobby Riley has received national recognition by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. NAESP's annual award program, "The **National Distinguished Principals** program," honors outstanding elementary and middle-level administrators who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for the students, families, and staff in their learning communities. These standards speak directly to the goals of the IAA, and the related outcomes that are being realized by and for students.

Accordingly, the Vermont State Board of Education, and the Vermont Secretary of Education, are pleased to acknowledge and congratulate Robert C. Riley, upon his being named the 2016 Vermont recipient of the *National Distinguished Principal Award*.

DATED at Montpelier, Vermont, this 19th day of April, 2016.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephan Morse".

Stephan Morse, Chair