

From: shapiro.kathy@gmail.com
To: [Gleason, Kimberly G; jspector@riseup.net](mailto:gleason.kimberly.g@riseup.net)
Cc: [Kolbe, Tammy](mailto:kolbe.tammy@riseup.net); [Brown, Patrick](mailto:brown.patrick@riseup.net); [Lovett, Tom](mailto:lovetttom@riseup.net); [Lucci, Gabrielle](mailto:lucchi.gabrielle@riseup.net); [Gaidys, Maureen](mailto:gaidys.maureen@riseup.net); [Sprague, Suzanne](mailto:sprague.suzanne@riseup.net); shapiro.kathy@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Invitation for Comment: Proposed Revisions to Vermont's Education Quality Standards
Date: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 5:18:54 PM

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

From:

Kathy Shapiro, P.A., M.P.H.

141 Upper Sunnybrook Rd.

Middlesex, VT 05602

802-249-3782

June 29, 2022

To:

The State Board of Education EQS Committee

Re: Recommendations by Act 1 Working Group, Definitions Section

Greetings:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment again on this critical, foundational section of the EQS recommendations on which the rest of the document relies. I would also like to express my thanks to the Act 1 Advisory Group and the SBE EQS Committee for its tireless work to provide Vermont students with the highest standards that uphold democratic principles and correct some of the omissions that have left the histories of so many ethnic and racial groups out of our curricula.

I fully support the broad and inclusive language as it appears now in Section 2114, which clearly defines words like 'discrimination,' 'ethnicity' and 'racism' without identifying or singling out any specific groups. This logic situates the work to be done within the broader struggle against racism and oppression, which are both embedded in white supremacy and the machinery that has been, and is, used to target innumerable groups. And innumerable is important because sadly there are too many to name, and some will always be left out. This is why the definitions need to be broad.

I have been aware of the work of EQS group since 2019 when I testified during the legislative process in response to certain groups, some from outside our state, who were involved in attempts to insert language into these definitions that singled out antisemitism as a unique form of discrimination and racism to be named and described. Most disturbing to me was the suggestion that a particular definition of anti-Semitism should be included that purposely conflates criticism of the State of Israel with anti-Semitism. This definition, created as a draft for discussion by International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA), was never meant to be adopted by states as a definition, and its author has himself publicly denounced it. Its use has created a climate of fear, and suppression of speech, specifically, the legitimate discussion of human rights abuses and crimes committed by the State of Israel, as well as the U.S. Yet where else should difficult discussions and debate about such issues be encouraged but within places of learning?

It is important to also note that the groups advocating for a singular place for antisemitism in this document do not speak for all Vermont Jews; while most Jews here and in the U.S. are like myself, secular, much of the testimony from JCVT is from rabbis. Likewise, The AntiDefamation League is a regional and national organization, not based in Vermont, with strong ties to the State of Israel - it hardly speaks for all of us.

Tactics of division and fear are the tactics of white supremacy - they divide us and make us vulnerable. A special lens on antisemitism alone ignores threats to other marginalized groups, most of whom are non white, and erases their unique experiences. We must be united to overcome all forms of racism and discrimination and we must act on the knowledge that oppression is intersectional, and justice indivisible.

Thank you again for this opportunity,

Kathy Shapiro

From: Gleason, Kimberly G <Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 9:55:07 AM
To: jspector@riseup.net <jspector@riseup.net>; Kathy Shapiro <shapiro.kathy@gmail.com>
Cc: Kolbe, Tammy <Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov>; Brown, Patrick <Patrick.Brown@partner.vermont.gov>; Lovett, Tom <Tom.Lovett@vermont.gov>; Lucci, Gabrielle <Gabrielle.Lucci@partner.vermont.gov>; Gaidys, Maureen <Maureen.Gaidys@vermont.gov>; Sprague, Suzanne <Suzanne.Sprague@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Invitation for Comment: Proposed Revisions to Vermont's Education Quality Standards

Good Morning!

Thank you for submitting written public comment on the *Definitions Section* of the Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Working Group recommendations for the *Education Quality Standards*.

We invite you to join us at our meeting tomorrow, Thursday, June 30, 10-11:30am, for an opportunity to take two or three minutes to summarize or highlight any area of your submission. Our committee will have read your written comments and may have brief clarifying questions for you. There will also be time at the beginning and end of the committee meeting for the public to be heard.

Please respond if you are able to attend tomorrow's meeting so that we can plan for our time. The agenda and meeting link is attached. And thank you for your interest in this important work.

Best,
Kim Gleason & Tammy Kolbe
Co-Chairs, EQS Rules Update Committee

<https://education.vermont.gov/calendar/edu-sbe-eqs%20rules%20update%20committee%20meeting-06-30-22>

State Board of Education Education Quality Standards Rule Update Committee Meeting | Agency of Education

Thursday, June 30, 2022 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Virtual via Microsoft Teams Call in Number: 1-802-828-7667 Conference ID: 199 203 20# Agenda

education.vermont.gov

From: jspector@riseup.net <Office365@messaging.microsoft.com>

Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 10:38 AM

To: Kolbe, Tammy <Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov>

Cc: Olsen, Oliver <Oliver.Olsen@vermont.gov>; Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov>; Gleason, Kimberly G <Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov>; jspector@riseup.net <jspector@riseup.net>

Subject: Re: Invitation for Comment: Proposed Revisions to Vermont's Education Quality Standards

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please find the attached letter that I am submitting as comments for your upcoming June 30th meeting. I am also attaching here supporting documentation to show that Jewish Communities of Vermont and the Anti-Defamation League do not speak for all Jewish people in Vermont. The Jerusalem Declaration was signed in April 2021, and was signed by over 15 Jewish organizations from around the world.

Thank you so much for your important work to support and improve all Vermont schools for all of Vermont's youth.

Sincerely,
Jamie Spector
Plainfield, VT

From: Kolbe, Tammy <Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 8:59:22 PM

Cc: Olsen, Oliver <Oliver.Olsen@vermont.gov>; Samuelson, Jennifer <Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov>; Gleason, Kimberly G <Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov>

Subject: Invitation for Comment: Proposed Revisions to Vermont's Education Quality Standards

Greetings.

In the coming months, a committee of the Vermont State Board of Education (SBE) will consider revisions to the state's Educational Quality Standards (EQS) to more fully recognize the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic and social groups and other groups who have been historically marginalized, discriminated against, and oppressed.

In its work, the SBE's EQS Committee will consider [the proposed revisions](#) to the EQS that have

been submitted by the [Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group](#) (created by Act 1 of 2019). The SBE's EQS Committee has scheduled six meetings over the summer: [June 23](#), June 30, July 21, July 28, August 11, and August 25. We hope that stakeholder groups and the public attend the SBE EQS Committee meetings and we ask that you share the Committee's meeting schedule with your personal and professional networks.

At its [June 30 meeting](#), the SBE EQS Committee will review the Advisory Working Group's revisions to the [Definitions](#) (Section 2114) contained in the EQS rule, as this section is foundational to what has been put forward. In preparation for this meeting, **we invite your written comment** on the Advisory Working Group's proposed **revisions to the EQS Definitions**. You are also encouraged to share our invitation for comment on the proposed Definitions with others.

If you choose to comment, **please submit your response no later than Monday, June 27**, so that the Committee has time to carefully read and consider your comments in advance of its meeting.

We will continue to seek input on other aspects of the proposed changes as we move through our review of the EQS rules, and we will offer public comment opportunity at each of our committee meetings.

Many thanks in advance.

Kim Gleason & Tammy Kolbe
Co-Chairs, Committee on Educational Quality Standards