

Act 1 Working Group

Response to State Board of Education EQS Manual Subcommittee

Definitional Revisions: Ethnic Studies & Social Identity Group

August 24, 2022

Definition Critical Thinking

The word “critical” in different forms appears seven times in the [Act 1 Working Group’s recommendations for EQS revisions](#): “critically examine” appears once; “critical focus” appears once; “critical examination” appears once; and “critical thinking” appears three times.

In this context, these terms can all be read to mean the same thing as applying *critical thinking* (see working definition below) in the curriculum topics they apply to in the text.

Additionally, we wanted to point out that in the Vermont Agency Education’s [Sample Graduation Proficiencies for Transferable Skills](#), critical thinking appears as a performance indicator under two of five transferable skills: Creative & Practical Problem Solving and Informed & Integrative Thinking.

Critical thinking is the objective analysis of an issue in order to better discern or form a judgment based on evaluating evidence, checking assumptions, and adopting multiple perspectives to better understand the question at hand.

Other resources

<http://www.corestandards.org/what-parents-should-know/>

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/faqs##Contents1>

<https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/c3>