

State Board of Education
November 17, 2021 Meeting

Rule Series 2200 Update

1. All four public comment hearings were held, and the public comment period closed on November 5, 2021.
2. There were only a few participants in the public comment hearings, but we received a flurry of written comments in the final days of the public comment period.
3. The Subcommittee is now in the process of reviewing all oral and written testimony and plans to present its proposed (final) amendments to Rule Series 2200 to the full Board in December.

Rule Series 7000 Update

1. Rule Series 7000 is now open as an offshoot of work performed by the Rule Series 2200 Subcommittee.
2. In March 2021, the Executive Director of The Association of Independent Schools in New England (“AISNE”) asked that the State Board include it on the list of recognized accrediting entities in Rule 7320. Currently, accrediting agencies that are recognized by the State Board in Rule 7320 are cross-referenced in Rule 2223.
3. AISNE representatives subsequently attended a meeting of the State Board's Rule 2200 Subcommittee where they presented an overview of the organization and responded to questions.
4. The Rule 2200 Subcommittee had further discussion of AISNE’s request at its meeting on August 2, 2021, and also considered the need to update the other names currently on the Rule 7320 list, its intent to shift the topic of recognized accrediting agencies out of Rule 7320 and into the Rule 2200 Series, and the desire not to delay the recognition of AISNE. The Executive Director of the VT Independent Schools Association was present and indicated the Association's support for recognizing AISNE as soon as possible.
5. At its August 18, 2021 meeting, the State Board reviewed a proposed, multi-step process to incorporate recognition of accrediting agencies into the 2200 Series, including the Agency's suggested language (which has been proposed during the public comment period for the 2200 Series) to amend Rule 2223 to explicitly identify AISNE as a recognized accrediting agency and give notice in Rule 2223 of the State Board's intent to repeal Rule 7320 on July 1, 2024. The State Board's August 2021 agenda included the opportunity for public comment.
6. At its September 15, 2021 meeting, the State Board reviewed the proposed amendments to the Rule 7000 Series and provided the opportunity for public comment.
7. The proposed amendments to the Rule 7000 Series are now posted on the Agency's website with notice of the opportunity for public comment.
8. In accordance with 3 V.S.A. §840, the State Board will hold one public comment hearing on **Wednesday, December 1, 2021, from 4pm - 5pm.**
8. Another opportunity for members of the public who wish to comment on the proposed changes to the rules is to email comments to **SBE.PublicComment@vermont.gov**. The public comment period will be open through **December 10, 2021.**