

AGENCY OF EDUCATION

Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant an amendment to enable Turning Points School in Morgan, VT to add the disability categories of Intellectual Disability (ID) and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI)?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants an amendment to enable Turning Points School in Morgan, VT to add the disability categories of Intellectual Disability (ID) and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI). This approval is through June 30, 2022, to coincide with the school's current approval period.

Approval is subject to the condition that the school immediately report to the Agency of Education whenever changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration, during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. §166(b)

State Board Rule: 2228 et. seq.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Turning Points School is a day treatment school designed to serve male and female students ages 5-22, within the disability categories of Specific Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Delay, and Other Health Impairment. Turning Points was formed in 1998 as an alternative program to provide psycho-educational services to students in the North Country Supervisory Union, who are challenged by emotional or behavioral problems. The school now serves students from several LEAs. Turning Points School is operated under the auspices of Northeastern Family Institute (NFI) Vermont, Inc., a statewide provider of mental health treatment services to children and families in cooperation with Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS).
2. Turning Points School received renewal of general and special education independent school approval, to serve students ages 5-22, on June 20, 2017 through June 30, 2022. Turning Points School is requesting an amendment to enable the school to serve students in the disability categories of Intellectual Disability (ID) and Speech or Language Impairment. (SLI).

3. There are two licensed special educators at Turning Points School, who hold Master's degrees in special education. These special educators will oversee the implementation of IEPs, 504 plans and provide services. The Director is a licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC). The two therapists from Northeast Kingdom Human Services (NKHS) are Master's level.
4. Turning Points School has developed policies for admissions, discipline and significant change in placement. These policies were reviewed and found to be appropriate.
5. The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is part of the school's philosophy and each student's placement is based on individual needs for a LRE.
6. Turning Points School will coordinate with Local Education Agencies through initiating referrals when appropriate, planning and participating in IEP meetings, providing information for evaluations, and planning and developing programs and accommodations.
7. Turning Points School has a policy on prevention and reporting of harassment, hazing, and bullying that is as stringent as the Agency's model policy.

COST IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

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