

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont**

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant approval of the amendment application from Foundations in Windsor, VT for the addition of the disability categories of Deaf/Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, and Orthopedic Impairment?

SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants approval of the amendment application from Foundations in Windsor, VT for the addition of the disability categories of Deaf/Blindness, Emotional Disturbance, and Orthopedic Impairment through June 30, 2020, Foundation's current term; and

This approval is conditional on the requirement that the school reports to the Agency of Education within five business days whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing or administration during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A., Section 166 (b)
State Board Rule: 2228 et. seq.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Foundations is an approved general and special education independent school. The school serves students ages five through 21 with significant disability challenges. Students are referred to Foundations when their levels of challenging behavior and intensity of their instructional needs precludes inclusion. Foundations has the capacity for 25 students.
2. Foundations was granted renewal of general and special education independent school approval by the State Board of Education in June of 2018 through June 30, 2020. Foundations currently holds approval to serve students in the following disability categories: autism spectrum disorder (ASD), developmental delay (DD), intellectual disability (ID), multiple disabilities (MD), speech or language impairment (SLI), other health impairment (OHI), and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

3. On June, 17, 2019 Foundations applied to amend its current approval to include the addition of the disability categories of deaf/blindness, emotional disturbance, and orthopedic impairment.
4. Agency of Education special education staff reviewed the amendment application and supporting documentation. AOE staff confirmed the school meets the requirements for independent school special education approval in the disability areas being requested.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

Cassandra Ryan, Fiscal and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator

Independent School Special Education Amendment Report

REPORT

**August 15,
2019**

Foundations

**Submitted by
Special Education Review Team**



Approval Recommendation

Based on amended application (dated 6/18/19), the Special Education Review Team recommends amended approval to include the disability categories of; autism spectrum disorder, developmental delay, deaf/blindness, emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, speech or language impairment, orthopedic impairment, multiple disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and other health impairment, for the duration of the approval term (6/30/2020) outlined in the approval decision dated 6/8/18.

Note on Approval:

The AOE recommends that Foundations ensure implementation of the following prior to its next review:

- Update application process to ensure that Foundations does not accept students who qualify under an alternate disability category than those Foundations is approved to serve.

Rationale

Agency recommendation report to the State Board of Education dated 6/8/18, the recommendation to the State Board Stated;

“that the State Board of Education approve Foundation’s application for renewal of approval for general and the requested special education categories for a term expiring June 30, 2020.”

The Special Education Team finds that the supports in place at Foundations can accommodate the additional categories requested on application dated 6/18/19.

School Description

Foundations is seeking approval in the areas of; autism spectrum disorder, developmental delay, deaf/blindness, emotional disturbance, intellectual disability, speech or language impairment, orthopedic impairment, multiple disabilities, traumatic brain injury, and other health impairment.

Review Description

Foundations, located in Windsor Vermont, was visited by Agency of Education staff on 4/13/17 which resulted in an approval recommendation dated 8/29/17. Agency staff conducted a file review to ensure capacities to support additional student categories based on amendment request dated 6/18/19.

Questions: Contact Chris Kane at chris.kane@vermont.gov