

DRAFT

Vermont State Board of Education Public Engagement Forums Proposal

Submitted by Members Patrick Brown and Jenna O’Farrell, 2/3/22

The Board will hold 6 virtual listening sessions

Counties:	Facilitators:	Suggested Date:	Time:	Additional Board Members:
Chittenden	Patrick Brown	Monday, 3/14	6:00 – 7:00	Timekeeper: Minutes:
Grand Isle, Franklin	Kim Gleason	Tuesday, 3/15	6:00 – 7:00	Timekeeper: Minutes:
Lamoille, Washington, Addison	Tammy Kolbe	Monday, 3/21	6:00 – 7:00	Timekeeper: Minutes:
Caledonia, Essex, Orleans	Jenna O’Farrell, Tom Lovett	Tuesday, 3/22	6:00 – 7:00	Timekeeper: Minutes:
Rutland, Bennington	Lyle Jepson, Oliver Olsen	Monday, 3/28	6:00 – 7:00	Timekeeper: Minutes:
Orange, Windsor, Windham	Jennifer Samuelson	Tuesday, 3/29	6:00 – 7:00	Timekeeper: Minutes:

The facilitator(s) and participating Board Members will introduce themselves. The Facilitator will review the agenda for the session and format etiquette (please remain muted and use the raise hand feature to indicate your interest in speaking). The facilitator will allow as many participants to speak as the time allows. (5 minutes)

The facilitator will ask three questions and allow public comment at a 2-minute maximum on each prompt. One present supporting Board Member will be recognized as a time keeper, and will monitor 17 minutes on each topic.

An additional supporting member will keep minutes.

Three Questions:

Question 1 and 2 are from the US Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights report: *Education in a Pandemic: The Disparate Impacts of COVID-19 on America’s Students*, June 2021.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/20210608-impacts-of-covid19.pdf>

- 1) OBSERVATION 1 (K-12): Emerging evidence shows that the pandemic has negatively affected academic growth, widening pre-existing disparities. In core subjects like math

and reading, there are worrisome signs that in some grades students might be falling even further behind pre-pandemic expectations.

What is your experience as educators, parents, and students in regard to academic achievement throughout the pandemic? What concerns do you have? What recommendations do you have to offer?

- 2) **OBSERVATION 6 (K-12 and postsecondary):** Nearly all students have experienced some challenges to their mental health and well-being during the pandemic and many have lost access to school-based services and supports, with early research showing disparities based on race, ethnicity, LGBTQ+ identity, and other factors.

What have you experienced as educators, parents and students in regard to the impact of the pandemic on student's mental health? What concerns you the most? What recommendations do you have to offer?

- 3) What are some lessons learned that have had a positive effect on educators and students that occurred during the pandemic? How will you integrate this information or strategies into your teaching and learning in the future?