

AGENCY OF EDUCATION

Barre, Vermont

**TEAM:** School Finance

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education grant approval of the amendment application from the **Manchester Village School** in Manchester, VT for the addition of the disability category of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)?

**SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the State Board of Education grants approval of the amendment application from the **Manchester Village School** in Manchester, VT for the addition of the disability category of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). This approval is through June 30, 2021, to coincide with the School's current approval period.

Approval is subject to the condition that the school reports within five days to the Agency of Education whenever any changes occur in enrollment, programs, policies, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration, during the approval process.

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

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. Manchester Village School provides an educational and therapeutic learning environment that fosters academic, social, and emotional growth to a maximum of 25 male and female students in grades 1-12.
2. Manchester Village School was granted renewal of general and special education independent school approval by the State Board of Education in June 2016 through July 30, 2021. Manchester Village School currently holds approval to serve students in the following disability categories: Intellectual Disability, Emotional Disabilities, Specific Learning Disabilities, Other Health Impairment, Speech or Language Impairment, Developmental Delay, and Autism Spectrum Disorder.
3. On July 12, 2018 the Manchester Village School applied to amend its current approval to include the addition of the disability category of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The school provided specifics regarding the classroom accommodations and clinical therapeutic supports available to students diagnoses with Traumatic Brain Injury. The school also provided a list of staff who have preparation, training, and experience working with students with Traumatic Brain Injury. Staff include a Vermont licensed

psychologist with over 25 years of experience diagnosing, treating, and developing intervention strategies for brain-injured clients; a Vermont licensed special educator with experience developing individualized programs for students with TBI; and a teacher who is a certified Equine Gestalt coach and has many years of experience teaching students with TBI in a residential setting.

4. Agency of Education (AOE) special education staff reviewed the amendment application and supporting documentation and conducted interviews with the Manchester Village School's head of school and the clinical director. AOE staff confirmed that the school meets the requirements for independent school special education approval, including the requirements to serve students with Traumatic Brain Injury and recommends approval of the addition of the TBI disability category to run concurrent with the school's current approval term. See attached report.

**COST IMPLICATIONS:** none

**STAFF AVAILABLE:**

Cassandra Ryan, Fiscal and Regulatory Compliance Coordinator