

Vermont State Board of Education 2013-14 Priorities

To meet its objective of enabling all Vermont students to reach their full potential and become engaged, contributing members of society, the Vermont State Board of Education has adopted its priorities for the 2013-14 year. The Board believes this objective be achieved through providing equitable high quality learning opportunities to all children, delivered within a flexible and personalized statewide system.

2013-14 priority areas:

- **Reduce the Achievement Gap**
- **Develop and begin implementation of a Balanced Assessment System**
- **Promote Student Voice**
- **Enhance School Leadership**
- **Support School and Teaching Improvement**
- **Ensure Effective Communications**
- **Develop Effective Governance System**

Priority 1 - The Achievement Gap - Reduce the persistent disparity of outcomes between groups of students within Vermont.

Strategies:

The board will

- Work with legislators and other organizations to provide access to universal early education by 2016.
- Develop policy to support full service/community schools and services in schools, concentrating first in the locations with the highest need. Remove policy barriers for creating full service community schools.
- Develop policy to encourage extended learning opportunities, through a longer school day and school year, and the promotion of any place, any time learning.
- Support policy initiatives, which enable the provision of services and resources to children, adequate and sufficient for meet their needs, so as to enable them to achieve state standards regardless of their circumstances.
- Require schools measure and report on adequacy and equality of opportunity through an annual Educational Quality Standards survey. [EQS rulemaking]
- Require a system utilizing visiting teams and peer review on a regular cycle tied to EQS with a focus on equity and opportunity. [EQS Rulemaking]



- Support policy to expand free school food service for all students.

~

Priority 2 - Balance State and Local Assessment Systems to ensure each child has diverse and multiple opportunities to demonstrate performance in meeting defined standards.

Strategies:

The board will

- Encourage the AOE to begin a process working with practitioners from the field to revise and create a Unified Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities which will include relevant CCSS and NGSS standards into one document. [EQS rulemaking]
- Comprehensively review the Vermont Assessment and Accountability System.
- Adopt accountability policies applicable to all programs and schools based on a comprehensive set of school indicators, which reduces the reliance on test scores as a school evaluation technique.
- Require schools report to the public on the quality of education through a broad inclusive set of measures as articulated through EQS in annual school report cards.

~

Priority 3 - Elevate Student Voice in educational decision making at all levels from the individual to the systems level.

Strategies:

The board will

- Encourage the AOE to include student involvement on all levels in the development of effective Personal Learning Plans and Multiple Pathways models.
- Support policy to require student representation on all high school boards.
- Work with the VPA/VSBA to support programming for student representatives on school boards
- Develop policy to require student feedback mechanisms in grades 7 -12 to assess and improve the learning experience.

~

Priority 4 - Develop policies to support effective Leadership at all levels.

Strategies:

The board will

- Promote policies, which require effective mentoring of new leaders at all levels of the system – teachers, principals, and superintendents.



- Work with partner organizations to support the development of ongoing, high quality professional development at all levels of the system – Para-professionals, teachers, principals, superintendents, and boards.
- Support the continuation the work on evaluation systems beyond teachers to principals, superintendents and districts.
- Continue to monitor and take board actions to implement Acts 153 and 156.

~

Priority 5 - Support Educational Improvement Efforts

Strategies:

The board will

- Support policy, which enable effective personalization of learning, student voice in learning and flexible use of time.
- Encourage the AOE to support networking and the showcasing of effective improvement models from the field.
- Encourage the AOE to promote the use of technology to support personalization of learning, anyplace-anytime learning, demonstrate competency and share innovations

~

Priority 6 - Develop a **Communication strategy, which encourages comprehensive community conversations, enhances public awareness and provides assurance of education equity and quality.**

Strategies:

The board will

- In state policy development and implementation, involve all appropriate stakeholder groups so as to insure broad and accurate communications.
- Support the AOE to promote awareness of equity of opportunity though the publication of Education Quality Standards survey data.
- Meet with regional groups such of teachers, principals and superintendents to gather input and feedback.
- Attend regional meetings to gather input on EQS
- Promote awareness and support for the potential of proficiency standards, personalization and flexible time, to transform learning opportunities.

~

Priority 7 - Support the development of a **governance system, which provides for equity of opportunity and achievement for all Vermont students while retaining community voice in decision making.**



Strategies

The board will

- Create a sub-committee to clarify the role and make up of SU Boards, District boards and Superintendents, which will make a report to the board.
- Work with legislators to support policy to reduce the number of supervisory unions statewide while retaining local school boards and community voice in decision-making.
- Review rules on an annual basis using a rotating review schedule which allows all rules to be reviewed in a timely and consistent manner.

~

Vermont State Board of Education

Stephan Morse, ChairNewfane
Sean-Marie Oller, Co Vice-Chair.....Bennington
Lachlan Francis, Co Vice-Chair..... Putney
Krista HulingJeffersonville
Bonnie Johnson-Aten.....Montpelier
Morgan MacIverPlainfield
Margaret MacLean Peacham
William MathisBrandon
Mark PerrinMiddlebury
Stacy Weinberger.....Burlington
Armando Vilaseca.....Agency Secretary

