

From: LACN Admin <lacnjobs@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 6:46 PM
Subject: Re: RSVP for the meeting

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Thank you! Here is my statement to please share, which I also read.

Hello. My name is Krista Siringo, and I am the parent of 3 children in the Mount Abraham Unified School District, one is in 7th grade and two are in 11th grade. One of my 11th graders has a physical disability and the other identifies as queer and nonbinary, so this work to update the Education Quality Standards is incredibly important to me, and I want to first thank you for this important work.

One critically important impact on our community is the call to action to include the voices of students and families when developing ethnic studies programming and resources. To quote a line from the disability community, “nothing about us, without us.” Without being informed by the voices of people with lived experience, programs and resources will run the risk of missing what is most needed.

However, one place where I think this document could be further strengthened is in the section on supporting students with disabilities. I would suggest the inclusion of language around reducing barriers in the physical environment so that those students can fully access their learning environment. In addition, whether in currently existing spaces or in plans to renovate or build new spaces, including the voice of people with lived experience is critical in this work.

As the parent of a child with a physical disability, I am very aware of the gap between the minimum standards required in the ADA accessibility guidelines and truly universal, barrier-free access. As school districts grapple with the need to renovate aging facilities, we have the opportunity to build truly inclusive, barrier-free spaces that welcome people of all abilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard, and for all of your hard work.

Thank you,

Krista Siringo

Bristol VT

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