

**From:** Susannah White <[swhite@mesu.org](mailto:swhite@mesu.org)>

**Subject:** EQS Advocacy

**Date:** September 9, 2022 at 9:38:06 AM GMT-4

**To:** [Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov](mailto:Kimberly.G.Gleason@vermont.gov), [Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov](mailto:Tammy.Kolbe@vermont.gov)

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Dear Kim Gleason, Tammy Kolbe, and members of the State Board of Education EQS Committee,

I am writing to you as a resident of Shoreham, VT and the Equity and Engagement Coach for the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union. I am encouraged to learn that the recommended changes to the Education Quality Standards (EQS) will promote critical thinking around the history, contributions, and viewpoints of many different ethnic and social groups and among other changes provide welcoming spaces for all students. This work is important to me because our students deserve and require both “windows” and “mirrors” to have healthy and whole relationships to self and others. The EQS will help to ensure that curriculum is developed which expands and enriches student worldviews and teaches the young people of Vermont to be thoughtfully curious members of their communities.

One of the changes that’s important to me is creating learning environments where students can explore ethnic, cultural, and racial perspectives and issues within and beyond the classroom. Our students are hungry for this; several BIPOC students shared their testimony regarding the lack of social diversity within their Social Studies curriculum with their School Board in June. One student shared, *“I feel like in history all we learn about is white people. I would love to see and hear about people from different backgrounds besides Harriet Tubman which we’ve learned about 7 times...just in time for Black History Month. Harriet Tubman is remarkable, same with Rosa Parks, but there are more Black people who deserve recognition and exist that are worthy of mentioning. I think we really need to incorporate lots of backgrounds and really dig deep instead of just going with what we’re told.”*

I hope there will be opportunities for public comment so we can share our voices on this important work. Please adopt these EQS recommendations submitted by the Ethnic Studies and Social Equity Working Group so we can better serve all students in Vermont schools.

Sincerely,  
Susannah White

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***My working hours may not be your working hours. Please respond to my communications when it is right for you.***

Susannah White (she/her) - [why?](#)  
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