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TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: House Education Committee
FROM: Josh Souliere, Assistant Director of Education Quality Reviews
TOPIC: Education Quality Standards – 2100 Statutory Authority 16 V.S.A. 164 and 165
DATE: January 11, 2017

The Agency of Education wishes to inform you of the Education Quality Standards (EQS).

Education Quality Standards

Vermont State Board of Education Rule 2000, School Quality Standards, was put into place following the passage of Act 60 in 1997, to ensure “all Vermont children will be afforded education opportunities that are substantially equal in quality.”

In 2012 and 2013, the Vermont State Board of Education re-examined these rules, assisted by a commission of education practitioners, business leaders and administrators called the Education Quality Standards (EQS) Commission.

In June 2013, the Board accepted the EQS Commission Recommendations, and voted to initiate the administrative rulemaking process. The Board held a series of public hearings across the state and collected over 200 pages of public comments relating to the Rule. At the December 2013 board meeting, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the proposed rule Education Quality Standards. As part of the administrative rulemaking process, the rules went before the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) and the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR), and were approved by the Secretary of State's Office. The rules officially went into effect on April 5, 2014.

Purpose of the Education Quality Standards

The purpose of these rules is to ensure that all students in Vermont public schools are afforded education opportunities that are substantially equal in quality and enable them to achieve or exceed the standards approved by the State Board of Education.

These rules are designed to ensure continuous improvement in student performance, instruction and leadership to enable students to attain rigorous standards in high-quality programs.

The Education Quality Standards are aligned with statute and provide greater detail into the identified practices. For example, 16 V.S.A. 2902 Tiered system of supports and educational support team, states that “within each school district’s comprehensive system of educational services, each public school shall develop and maintain a tiered system of academic and behavioral supports for the purpose of providing all students with the opportunity to succeed or to be challenged in the general education environment.” The statute is recognized in the Education Quality Standards and components of a tiered system of support, 2121.5 Tiered

System of Support, are covered in more detail. Additional components of a tiered system of support are also provided in other areas, such as 2121.6 Interagency Teams, 2122.1 School Facilities and Learning Environment and 2122.2 Access to Instructional Materials.

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