



Vermont Independent
Schools Association

April 14, 2020

Rep. Kate Webb, chair
House Education Committee
Vermont General Assembly
Via email

Dear Rep. Webb:

The Vermont Independent Schools Association supports a one-year extension of the Act 173 deadline by which all Vermont independent schools accepting public tuitions must provide special education services.

A provision in a draft bill now in your committee proposes that one-year extension, along with extensions to many other Act 173 deadlines.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck Vermont, State Special Education Director Jacqui Kelleher and I discussed a need to plan and provide essential training and supports that independent schools and LEAs would require to be fully ready to provide special education services as required beginning July 1, 2022. Now however, as with many other Act 173-related requirements, these tasks cannot be properly planned and completed within the existing Act 173 implementation schedule.

Thank-you to you and to your committee colleagues for your attention to the needed revisions to the Act 173 timeline.

Sincerely yours,

Mill Moore, Executive Director

copies: House Education Committee members
Avery Lamb, Committee Assistant