



VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION
MEMO
From the Desk of Jay Nichols

To: House Education Committee

Subject: H.3 Education; ethnic and social education in schools; Ethnic and Social;
Equity Standards Advisory Working Group

Date: January 23, 2019

- We support the creation of the Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group to advise the State Board of Education on the adoption of ethnic and social equity studies standards into statewide educational standards.
- The State Board of Education should publish data on student performance and hazing, harassment, or bullying incidents disaggregated by student groups, including ethnic and racial groups, poverty status, disability status, English language learner status, and gender within limitations of state and federal law.

- Working Group Configuration: we will be pleased to have a designee from the Vermont Principals' Association and will select a member who has curriculum expertise in this area
- The VPA is committed to equity in public education. In fact, we cite equity specifically in our mission. We have been working with partners in and out of education to convene workshops, conferences, and summits to provide individuals with tools and strategies to break down institutional barriers that impede equity.
- Vermont as a whole, and Vermont schools in particular, have made great progress in creating a more equitable learning and living environment. However, we still have a great deal of ground to cover.
- Providing specific standards and guidance for implementing those standards will serve school leaders, faculty & staff, and most importantly, students, well.
- Here is a workshop that we are using to help school leaders understand the critical role they play in equity progress within their school systems. The workshop features Paul Gorski the founder of EdChange and the Equity Literacy Institute and a professor at George Mason University:

Register now! Leading for Equity with [Paul Gorski](#)

Wednesday, April 10th, 2019, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Room 105 at the College of St. Joseph, Rutland

Equity Literacy for School Leaders: The single most important factor when it comes to equity progress in school is leadership. Do you have the knowledge, skills, and will to be a threat to inequity in your school or district? In this workshop we will explore what it means to lead for equity, to recognize and respond to inequity, and to make schools equitable spaces for each student. We will work first on strengthening our understandings of why educational

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disparities persist across race, class and other identities. We will then apply these understandings to a discussion of critical equity practices for school leaders.

- Finally, if this Committee and Senate Education are interested. The VPA offers to work with you to try and get Mr. Gorski to come to Vermont to meet with the legislature at large or with the two education committees. Gorski is renowned for his Equity Literacy Framework that supports schools and other organizations to address issues of bias and impediments to equity for all students.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Nichols