

## AOE Testimony: AOE Capacity and Act 173 Response

**Testimony To:** Senate Committee on Education

**Respectfully Submitted by:** Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education

**Date:** January 7, 2019

### AOE Capacity

In the autumn of 2019, the agency adopted a new purpose statement after a period of focused work to reconsider and develop the agency's role in the current context of the Vermont education system. The purpose statement reads as follows:

*"The Agency of Education implements state and federal laws, policies, and regulations to ensure all Vermont learners have equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities. The Agency accomplishes this mission through the provision of its leadership, support, and oversight of Vermont's public education system."*

*By **leadership**, we mean developing a shared statewide vision and defining expectations for Vermont's education system in order to achieve coherent, consistent understanding of policy and implementation at the local level.*

*By **support**, we mean providing professional learning opportunities and technical assistance so that stakeholders are able to meet legal requirements, ensure fiscal accountability, and make data-informed decisions.*

*By **oversight** we mean data collection and monitoring to verify that state and federal resources are used appropriately and effectively, to build and sustain a high-quality education system, and ensure Vermonters' right to access high quality learning opportunities.*

### Overview of AOE Staffing

[Agency of Education Organization Chart](#)

[AOE Leadership Team](#)

### Activities in Response to Act 173

The agency is fully engaged in providing support to Vermont School Districts as they adjust to Act 173 of 2018. This includes a series of technical guidance documents around specific areas the agency has identified as key to success of Act 173 at the district level. Each of these is linked to a current State Board Rule of the Education Quality Standards (Series 2100) or state statute:

- *SBE Rule 2120.6. Curriculum Coordination*
- *SBE Rule 2121.3. Needs Based Professional Learning*
- *SBE Rule 2123.2. Development and Implementation of Local Comprehensive Assessment System*
- *16 V.S.A. § 2902. Tiered system of supports and educational support team*

To date, the agency has published the following technical guidance documents in the areas listed above:

- [Developing Systems to Support the Success of All Students](#) (summary of the technical guidance series) – August 2019
- [Educational Support Teams in School District Systems](#) – October 2019
- [Local Comprehensive Assessment Systems in School District Systems](#) – December 2019

Forthcoming technical guidance documents will be published in the near future:

- Needs Based Professional Learning
- Coordinated Curriculum

This framework is outlined in further detail in the AOE's [Legislative Report in response to Sec. 12 of Act 173 of 2018](#)

Additionally, the General Assembly appropriated funds to the agency for use implementing the provisions of Act 173. The [Cost Activity Timeline](#) outlines the specifics of this spending.