

District Quality Standards (DQS): Facilities Management

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District Quality Standards

- Rule Series 100: [Agency of Education Rules | Agency of Education \(vermont.gov\)](#)
- Addresses:
 - District Quality Standards (“DQS”)
 - Quality Assurance Regulations (“QAR”)
 - Reporting and public transparency requirements
- Applicable to public Supervisory Unions and Supervisory Districts – not applicable to independent schools
- Effective July 1, 2025

Rationale

- The State (AOE) is responsible for providing **equitable access to high quality education** to Vermont learners.
- **Assurances are needed** to support the successful delegation of this authority.
- **Significant process variability** in Vermont's education system has been exacerbated by:
 - Pandemic
 - Labor Shortages
 - Increased Staff Turnover

Expected Outcomes

- Stronger and more consistent **district-level core processes** that can:
 - Address **persistent quality concerns**
 - **Reduce equity gaps**
 - Mitigate the impact of **staff turnover**
- Increased ability to deliver relevant **technical support**
 - Absent clear standards, difficult to provide systemic and clear supports

District Quality Standards

- Provide new district-level standards in:
 - Business Operations
 - Facilities Management and Safety
 - Governance
- **Critical, high-leverage systems** that support equitable access to high quality education
- **Focused on end results** rather than prescriptive processes
- **Attainable** for all districts
- Is not a mechanism by which EQS is comprehensively measured or reviewed

Facilities Management

- Includes major requirements included in Act 72:
 - SU/SD maintains a **comprehensive Operations and Maintenance Manual (OMM)**
 - Ensures clean, well-maintained facilities conducive to learning
 - Describes regular cleaning and maintenance routines
 - Ensures appropriate staff training
 - SU/SD maintains a **five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**
 - Describes future capital improvement needs
 - Addresses specific categories (safety, accessibility, tech, STEAM capacity, building condition and performance)
 - SU/SD has a **designated, qualified person** with responsibility for facilities management
 - Note – does not require a specific position or FTE

Quality Assurance Process

1. District Self-Evaluation (Annual)

- AOE provision of technical assistance based on trends

2. AOE Three-Year Intermediate Review

- Identification (Year 1): AOE reviews State assessment proficiency scores and annual self-evaluations
- Agency Review (Year 1 and 2): AOE reviews indicators of system-level proficiency in selected EQS elements
 - AOE may recommend corrective action and/or technical assistance
- Agency recommendation to SBE (Year 3)

3. SBE Hearing: Described in 16 VSA 165. Occurs following the Intermediate Review *if* District fails to take corrective action.

Current and Upcoming Work

