§ 212. SECRETARY'S DUTIES GENERALLY

The Secretary shall articulate a long-term strategic vision for educational services in the State, through engagement of the education community, shall execute those policies adopted by the State Board in the legal exercise of its powers and shall:

- (1) Coordinate the educational work of the public schools with higher education in the State.
- (2) Identify the educational goals of the public schools, provide alternative methods of attaining those goals, and promote education in the State.
- (3) Evaluate the program of instruction in the public schools Establish, through rulemaking, education and district quality standards to evaluate the quality of instruction and operations in the public and school choice schools.
- (4) Advise the General Assembly concerning proposed laws affecting the public schools.
- (5) Supervise and direct the execution of the laws relating to the public schools and ensure compliance.
- (6) Supervise the expenditure and distribution of all money appropriated by the State under the provisions of this title for public schools.
- (7) Arrange conferences and summer schools for superintendents and teachers and employ suitable speakers, lecturers, and instructors for the same; fix the amount of tuition for the instruction; provide for educational gatherings, institutes, summer schools, and other supplementary educational activities; and provide for cooperation with the Board of Libraries established by 22 V.S.A. § 602 or the State Librarian.

Proposed SBE duties

§ 164. STATE BOARD; GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES

The State Board shall engage local school board members and the broader education community and, consistent with the provisions of this title, its own rules, and rules adopted by the Secretary, establish and regularly update contribute to a long-term strategic vision articulated by the Secretary of Education for the delivery of educational services in Vermont; advise the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Secretary of Education on high priority educational policies and issues as they arise; and act in accordance with legislative mandates, including the adoption of rules and executing special assignments. In addition to other specified duties, the Board shall:

- (1) Establish such advisory commissions as in the judgment of the Board will be of assistance to it in carrying out its duties. Advisory commission members shall serve with or without compensation at the discretion of the Board but shall receive actual expenses incurred in pursuance of their duties.
- (2) Have the authority to enter into agreements with school districts, municipalities, states, the United States, foundations, agencies, or individuals for service, educational programs, or research projects.
- (3) Examine and determine all appeals that by law are made to it and prescribe rules of practice in respect thereto, not inconsistent with law.
 - (4) [Repealed.]
 - (5) [Repealed.]

- (8) Inform citizens of the condition of and opportunities within the public education system and provide other educational publicity for the enlightenment and well being of the citizens of the State Provide clear, transparent and high quality information to citizens regarding the condition and opportunities within the public education system.
- (9) Establish requirements for information to be submitted by school districts, including necessary statistical data and other information and ensure, to the extent possible, that data are reported in a uniform way. Data collected under this subdivision shall include budget surplus amounts, reserve fund amounts, and information concerning the purpose and use of any reserve funds.
- (10) Make recommendations to school boards regarding transportation policies.
- (11) Provide an educational facilities planning service to make available technical assistance and comprehensive information on school construction, school systems design, component technology and suppliers, and similar subjects to public schools, school districts, and independent schools, for the purpose of helping them to achieve flexibility and economy in construction, to retain the potential for modification and expansion of educational facilities, and to attain the lowest maintenance costs consistent with educational needs.
- (12) Distribute at his or her discretion upon request to approved independent schools appropriate forms and materials relating to the education quality standards for elementary and secondary students.

Proposed SBE duties

- (6) Make regulations governing the attendance and records of attendance of all students and the deportment of students attending public schools.
- (7) Adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 to carry out the powers and duties of the Board as directed by the General Assembly, within the limitations of legislative intent.
 - (8) [Repealed.]
- (9) Implement and continually update standards for student performance in appropriate content areas and at appropriate intervals in the continuum from kindergarten to grade 12 and methods of assessment to determine attainment of the standards for student performance. The standards shall be rigorous, challenging, and designed to prepare students to participate in and contribute to the democratic process and to compete in the global marketplace. The standards shall include a standard for reading level proficiency for students completing grade three.
 - (10) [Repealed.]
- (11) If deemed advisable, determine educational standards for admission to and graduation from the public schools.
 - (12) [Repealed.]
- (13) Be the State Board for the program of adult education and literacy and perform all the duties and powers prescribed by law pertaining to adult education and literacy and to act as the State approval agency for educational institutions conducting programs of adult education and literacy.

- (13) Ensure the provision of services to children and adolescents with a severe emotional disturbance in coordination with the Departments of Mental Health, for Children and Families, and of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living pursuant to the provisions of 33 V.S.A. chapter 43.
- (14) Annually, communicate to each superintendent a list of information that a supervisory union, a school board, a school district, a school, or a school district employee, or a supervisory union employee is required under State or federal law to make available to the electorate, community members, parents, or students. It is the intent of this subdivision that the Secretary shall make a good faith effort to compile a complete list of the information to be made available. Due to the difficult nature of compiling such a list, it is also the intent that failure to include relevant information on the list shall not constitute grounds for an action against the Secretary.
- (15) Annually, with the Commissioner of Health, shall jointly inform superintendents and principals of appropriate practices regarding students with lifethreatening allergies and chronic illnesses; and prepare and distribute policies, training materials, and school guidelines for managing students with life-threatening allergies and chronic illnesses, including family responsibilities, school responsibilities, and student responsibilities.
- (16) Annually, convene a meeting of directors of Vermont educator preparation programs and representatives of school boards, superintendents, principals, educators, and the Vermont Standards Board to determine subject and geographic areas in which there is a

Proposed SBE duties

- (14) Adopt rules for approval of independent schools.
- (15) Establish criteria governing the establishment of a system for the receipt, deposit, accounting, and disbursement of all funds by supervisory unions and school districts.
- (16) In cooperation with the Secretary, ensure that the Agency develops information, plans, and assistance to aid in making technology and telecommunications available and coordinated in all school districts. The State Board shall develop guidelines for distribution of federal, State, or private funds designated for the development or expansion of distance learning technologies. The guidelines shall encourage, consistent with any terms or conditions established by the funding source, collaboration between schools and school districts to realize economic and educational efficiencies.
- (17) Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a supervisory union and school district basis. The report shall include information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under subdivision (9) of this section, number and types of complaints of hazing, harassment, or bullying made pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter 5 of this title and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each school, school district, and supervisory union to determine its strengths and weaknesses. To the extent consistent with State and federal privacy laws and

critical need for educators and to discuss ways to meet the need.

- (17) Encourage and facilitate collaboration among school districts and supervisory unions to share information and expertise regarding low-incidence special education needs.
- (18) Annually, inform superintendents and principals of regional resources available to assist schools to provide instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators and provide updated information to the education community regarding the provision of a comprehensive health education.
- (19) Establish an information clearinghouse and accessible database to help districts share information about educational programs and practices that improve student performance. Educational programs and practices include those designed to create and sustain a safe learning environment.
- (20) Develop, in consultation with the Secretary of State, and make available to school boards sample ballot language for issues that may be decided by Australian ballot and for which no statutory language exists.
- (21) Prepare a budget for the Agency and submit it to the Governor after review by the State Board.
- (22) Annually, prior to September 1, present the Governor's education policy priorities to the State Board.
- (23) Make regulations governing the attendance and records of attendance of all students and the deportment of students attending public schools.
- (24) Implement and continually update standards for student performance in appropriate content areas and at

Proposed SBE duties

regulations, data on hazing, harassment, or bullying incidents shall be disaggregated by incident type, including disaggregation by ethnic groups, racial groups, religious groups, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and English language learner status. The Secretary shall use the information in the report to determine whether students in each school, school district, and supervisory union are provided educational opportunities substantially equal to those provided in other schools, school districts, and supervisory unions pursuant to subsection 165(b) of this title.

- (18) Ensure that Vermont's students, including students enrolled in secondary career technical education, have access to a substantially equal educational opportunity by developing a system to evaluate the equalizing effects of Vermont's education finance system and education quality standards under section 165 of this title.
 - (19) [Repealed.]
- (20) Pursuant to section 806g of this title, constitute the State Council for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and appoint to the Council a Compact Commissioner and Military Family Education Liaison, who may be the same person. The Board may appoint additional members.
- (21) Report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly on the progress the Board has made <u>in</u> the execution of its enumerated duties on the development of education policy for the State.

appropriate intervals in the continuum from kindergarten to grade 12 and methods of assessment to determine attainment of the standards for student performance. The standards shall be rigorous, challenging, and designed to prepare students to participate in and contribute to the democratic process and to compete in the global marketplace. The standards shall include a standard for reading level proficiency for students completing grade three.

- (25) By rule, determine statewide graduation standards.
- (26) Provide oversight for adult education and literacy programs and perform all the duties and powers prescribed by law pertaining to adult education and literacy and to act as the State approval agency for educational institutions conducting programs of adult education and literacy.
- (27) Report annually on the condition of education statewide and on a school district basis. The report shall include information on attainment of standards for student performance adopted under subdivision (24) of this section, number and types of complaints of hazing, harassment, or bullying made pursuant to chapter 9, subchapter 5 of this title and responses to the complaints, financial resources and expenditures, and community social indicators. The report shall be organized and presented in a way that is easily understandable by the general public and that enables each school, school district, and supervisory union to determine its strengths and weaknesses. To the extent consistent with State and federal privacy laws and regulations, data on hazing,

Proposed SBE duties

- (22) Administer a statewide contract to provide annual training to school board members on educational leadership and the roles and responsibilities of the school district board. The State Board will select an appropriate training vendor to speak to the Vermont context and to be informed by research-based best practices.
- (23) Annually, review each school district's adopted equity budget policy, and coordinate with school districts on the content and implementation considerations for those policies.
- (24) Annually, review the outcome of the District Quality Standards evaluation of school board proficiency published by the Agency of Education. The State Board shall convene public discussions with each school district to identify areas for improvement, and to define the role(s) of the school board in improving districtwide practices.