

Recommended Changes to Rule Series 2000, Education Quality Standards

Presentation to the Senate Education Committee

January 21, 2025

Purpose of EQS & Amendments

- EQS establish the standards that public schools need to meet to ensure that all of Vermont's students have educational opportunities that are substantially equal in quality
- EQS were last updated in 2014
- Amendments were largely driven by passage of Act 1 (2019) and technical corrections to modernize the rule to align with current statute and AOE policies.

Changes as a result of Act 1 (2019)

Act 1, “An act relating to ethnic and social equity studies standards for public schools” (Act 1 of 2019, Section 1(g) – Duties of the Working Group):

1. Increase cultural competency of students in grades PK-12;
2. Increase attention to the history, contribution, and perspectives of ethnic and social groups;
3. Promote critical thinking regarding the history, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic and social groups;
4. Commit supervisory unions to eradicating racial bias in their curricula;
5. Provide, across their curricula, content and methods that enable students to safely explore questions of identity, race equality, and racism; and
6. Ensure that the basic curriculum and extracurricular programs are welcoming to all students and account for parental concerns about religion or culture.

Framework for State Board's Work to Update EQS

- The SBE approved further modifications to the revisions proposed by the Act 1 Working Group fell into five categories:
 1. Ensuring the EQS was consistent with existing statute
 2. Whether the EQS was understandable and able to be implemented in the field
 3. Technical changes recommended by AOE and the field to bring the document current with policy and practice
 4. Bring the EQS in alignment with the newly-proposed District Quality Standards (DQS) and Quality Assurance Review (QAR) process
 5. Input from the field and public about the rule's impact on educational programs and practices

2000 EQS Rule Making Process

- *April 2022* **Received Act 1 Working Group recommendations for EQS (Act 1 of 2019)**
- *April 2022– May 2023* **28 meetings of the EQS Committee.** Testimony on:
 - Definitions, Curriculum & Instruction, Technical Changes, Application to Independent Schools, Alignment with District Quality Standards (DQS), legal review
- *May 17, 2023* **SBE voted unanimously to approve the Rule 2000 EQS for ICAR filing**
- *June/July 2023* ICAR presentation and formal filing
- *September/October 2023* **3 public hearings-180 attendees; September 13 & 28, 2023 and October 3, 2023**
 - 100 written comments
 - public comment period closed October 25, 2023
- *November 2023-*
- *April 2024* **14 meetings of the EQS Committee**
 - Included 2 joint EQS/2200 meetings (Special SBE Meetings)
- *April 17, 2024* **SBE voted unanimously to approve the Rule 2000 EQS for LCAR filing**
- *June 13, 2024* **LCAR voted to approve the revised Rule 2000 EQS**

Revisions to Rule 2000 go into effect July 1, 2025

State Board of Ed (SBE) Rules Series 2000 Education Quality Standards (EQS) Committee

Kim Gleason, Co-Chair

Tammy Kolbe, Co-Chair

Mohamed Diop

Grey Fearon (Student Member)

Rich Werner

(former members: Patrick Brown, Tom Lovett & Gabrielle Lucci (Student Member))



Next Steps



Vermont State Ethnic Studies Framework (IRIS Framework)

- June 2023: Act 1 Working Group developed curricular and content standards for Ethnic Studies (June 2023)
- Fall 2023: IRIS Framework was submitted to SBE for consideration as educational standards, pursuant to the Board's authority granted by 16 VSA 164(9)
- Ongoing: SBE's Standards Committee is considering the IRIS framework and how this framework might be translated to Ethnic Studies standards that align with the EQS

Resources

- Link to final adopted Rule 2000:
 - <https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-state-board-rule-series-2000.pdf>
- Link to IRIS Framework proposed by Act 1 working group (currently under consideration by SBE):
 - <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/WorkGroups/House%20Education/Social%20Equity/Act%201%20Ethnic%20Studies%20and%20Social%20Equity%20Working%20Group/W~Amanda%20Lucia%20Garces~Standards%20Framework%206-30-2023~1-18-2024.pdf>