

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

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Superintendent's Report

July, 2016

CONGRATULATIONS:

Beth Hemingway, Director of Student Support Services, has joined the Vermont Council of Special Education Rules and Regulations Committee. This committee works collaboratively with Agency of Education personnel on upcoming proposed Vermont Special Education Rules and Regulation changes

CELEBRATIONS:

Correspondence from the Vermont Agency of Education, received June 21, 2016-

Dear Ms. Burrington:

The Consolidated Federal Programs team has just completed the desk monitoring of the Annual Report Card requirement. Your local educational agency (LEA) was one of 15 that were chosen to participate in this monitoring. The team reviewed all the submissions – over 60 individual school Annual Report Cards. Needless to say, the task took quite some time and it was clear how much effort was given by both local principals and LEA CFP team leaders to complete it.

I am pleased to inform you that the school report cards from your supervisory union are now in compliance with all of the Title I, Part A requirements and the desk monitoring is considered complete at this time. I want to commend the district for all the time and effort put forth to make sure Grand Isle Supervisory Union is compliant with this federal requirement.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Annual Report Card requirements.

Sincerely,

*Karen L. Abbott
Consolidated Federal Programs
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karen.abbott@vermont.gov*

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

The Grand Isle Supervisory Union will submit Child Count for the July 1, 2016 deadline. This takes into consideration students who have graduated, moved, or no longer eligible for special education. This is an annual report that is submitted. Child Count is also reported on December 1st of each year.

The IDEA-B Grant was submitted on June 24th for Fiscal Year 2017. The grant included Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychological Services, Extended School Year Services and mileage for central office employees as well as some funding for professional development and the special education program for IEP paperwork.

CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT & TECHNOLOGY:

Overview of the ESSA State Plan Development:

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 10, 2015. It reauthorizes the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which was previously reauthorized as No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

The Vermont Agency of Education is currently in the process of determining how the requirements of ESSA will translate into state education practice: which state practices will evolve as a result of ESSA, and which will remain the same. As a part of this work, the state remains committed to the core tenets of Vermont's Education Quality Standards: personalization, proficiency, and a commitment to providing high quality, equitable learning opportunities for all of Vermont's students.

The Agency of Education, in consultation with a statewide network of educators and community partners, will draft a plan describing how Vermont will meet the requirements of ESSA. At this time, the Agency anticipates submitting a draft plan for federal approval in by January 15, 2017. The plan development timeline and process are subject to change as additional federal guidance is made available. As Vermont assembles a draft plan for federal review, it will apply the following lenses to its proposed solutions, listed in order of importance:

- **EQUITY:** proposed solutions should support equitable outcomes and learning opportunities for all of Vermont's students.
- **ALIGNMENT:** proposed solutions should align with the stated goals and values of state education policy wherever possible.
- **EFFICIENCY:** proposed solutions should obtain useful results for the lowest possible cost of time and financial resources.
- **PRACTICALITY:** proposed solutions should reflect the AOE and field's capacity to support implementation, and should avoid creating unnecessary burdens and duplicative processes.

The following is excerpted from VT Digger Article (6.26.16) Regarding Small Schools Grants and Act 46:

The small-schools grant has been one of the larger carrots in the Act 46 school governance law. Districts that choose to merge get to keep it, although under a different name: the perpetual merger support grant. For everyone else, the grant phases out in fiscal year 2020, and most

school districts that remain unmerged — or shoot for alternative structures — will no longer receive the extra support.

At its annual retreat, the State Board of Education agreed to develop and adopt rules to help define how it intends to decide whether to award small-schools grants after fiscal 2019. Districts that didn't voluntarily merge could still get a small-schools grant if they operate a school that has an average grade size of 20 or fewer students and if the state board determines annually that either transportation prevents a merger (because of drive times and inhospitable routes) or the school proves to be fiscally efficient and offers excellent academic programs.

To meet the final expectation, a school has to offer a variety of "high quality" educational opportunities; the state board will review the number of low-income students being served, and consider student outcomes and student-to-staff ratios. Board members also will keep in mind whether the district participated in a merger study committee and review the report submitted to them. Those that qualify will be reviewed under the same criteria each year.

The state board directed the education secretary to prepare draft rules and present them at the October meeting.

Link to full article:

<http://vtdigger.org/2016/06/26/districts-that-hope-to-avoid-merger-can-expect-to-face-high-bar/>

FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE:

We will be working on year-end closings; 4th quarter AOE 2.0 grant reporting; quarterly payroll reports; entering all FY17 grant budgets into ADS; wrapping up contracts for Bus, Food Services, Fuel; and reconciling all employee benefits, etc.; and preparing the final Special Education Expenditure Reports which are due August 1st. Summer is a very busy time for the Central Office staff.

IMPORTANT DATES:

July Board Meetings: Many District meeting dates have been changed for July. Please remember to inform Ellen Norris of all meeting dates and changes. Thank you.

Act 46 Committee Meetings:

- July 12 @ILM School, 6-8PM
- July 26 @Alburgh School, 6-8PM

SWIFT PLI Conference in VA: July 20 – July 23 (10 members of the SU community participating)