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Web and Document Accessibility Policy

Purpose Statement:

The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) is committed to ensuring that every student in Vermont receives a high quality and equitable education. The AOE believes strongly in the principle of equal access, and is dedicated to ensuring that students, parents, teachers, school staff, administrators, partners, and the public at large are able to access all agency communications, materials, and documents without difficulty or obstacle. The AOE is committed to equal opportunity for people with disabilities, in fulfillment not only of its duty under state and federal law, but its mission to ensure every Vermont learner has an equal opportunity to succeed and grow.

Ensuring Equal Access:

The AOE develops all public communications and content, including web sites, blog posts, reports, documents, and tools, to be accessible under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The agency uses the WCAG 2.0 Level AA and Web Accessibility Initiative Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) 1.1. standards to measure compliance and, wherever possible, exceeds these standards in delivering accessible content.

Accessibility Contact:

If you have trouble accessing any content on the AOE website, or any content belonging to the agency posted by third parties, please contact the Webmaster at: aoe.webmanager@vermont.gov or use our web contact form. Alternately, you may call the agency at (802) 479-1030.

If you have questions about AOE accessibility policies or procedures, or you are a contractor or third party partner who must comply with agency accessibility policies, you may contact the Accessibility Compliance Team by emailing ted.fisher@vermont.gov.

Alternate Access:

Certain AOE owned materials are not in full compliance with the agency's accessibility policies and Section 504/Title II. This is the case when the materials, by their nature, are not fully accessible (i.e., certain toolkits, worksheets, or financial records). Additionally, the agency may be legally obligated to post certain materials not created by the agency that are not fully accessible (e.g., laws and other legislative materials, content created by other State of Vermont agencies or departments, or content created by third parties). If you experience a problem with such materials, please notify the webmaster, and the agency will work to provide the information to you in an alternative format.

Third Party Accessibility

The Vermont Agency of Education uses a range of third party contractors, vendors, and partners to develop materials and content for the agency. Since 2016, the agency has required

that all content, materials, and tools developed by the agency, developed for the agency by third parties, or developed in partnership with other state agencies or third parties and hosted on the AOE website, be fully accessible.

The AOE additionally routinely provides links to third party content hosted on websites not owned or affiliated with the agency. This content is usually provided as additional resources to educators, administrators, or other interested parties, intended to complement (but not replace) agency developed content. The agency takes no responsibility for the accessibility of such third party content, and any and all accessibility questions should be directed to the owners and webmasters of the site(s) in question. If you are having trouble contacting any owner of a resource linked to from an AOE owned site, please contact us and we will attempt to connect you with them.

Document/Material Accessibility Statement:

The AOE publishes a broad range of documents, materials, and tools in various media formats. The agency follows a rigorous process of document publishing and internal controls to ensure maximum accessibility of these materials. The agency will post the following statement on the content summary page for all agency documents:

This document has been formatted to meet accessibility standards under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1978. If you encounter errors in formatting or structure that prevent you from accessing the content in this document, please [contact the webmaster]. For more information, [read the Agency of Education Web and Document Accessibility Policy].

The AOE is committed to reducing these instances wherever possible with a goal of creating a web presence that is 100 percent accessible.