

Benson - Castleton - Fair Haven - Fair Haven Union High - Hubbardton - Orwell - West Haven

Addison-Rutland Supervisory Union

49 Main Street

Fair Haven, Vermont 05743-1094

Phone (802) 265-4905

Fax (802) 265-2158

Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Superintendent

Kristin H. Benway, Director of Special Services

Cheryl Scarzello, Director of Finance

Sherri Nichols, Curriculum & Staff Development Coordinator

Chris Cole, Information Technology Coordinator

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Dear Parents and Families:

President Barack Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on December 10, 2015. ESSA replaces the previous Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

Under the ESSA, Vermont is required to implement the same interventions in the 2016–17 school year for schools that were previously identified for program improvement in the 2015–16 school year; with the exception of the provision of Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and Choice: Benson Village School is in Year 1 Corrective Action in both Reading and Mathematics. Castleton Hubbardton US #42 is in Year 1 Corrective Action in both Reading and Mathematics. Fair Haven Grade School did not make it in Year 4 Corrective Action for both Reading and Mathematics. Orwell Village School Did not make AYP for the first time in both Reading and Mathematics. Fair Haven UHS #16 is in Year 2 School Improvement in both Reading and Mathematics.

As allowed by the ESSA, Vermont is developing a new accountability system for the 2017–18 school year. The 2016–17 school year was considered a "transition" year, designed to effect an orderly transition to the new law and accountability system. Vermont has developed a transition plan that describes various alternative supports and services that are to be provided to eligible students.

During the 2016–17 school year, under the ESSA, Vermont has elected to eliminate the requirement for LEAs to provide SES. Schools will continue to provide students with supports and activities designed to increase the academic achievement of all students. We are committed to continuous school improvement, and to supporting all of our students in their effort to succeed. This is what we strive to achieve every day. We are continuously working to improve the quality of our programs and student supports. This year, our schools will continue to partner with the Agency of Education to implement a continuous improvement plan for our schools that will support the needs of all students. Our 2017-2018 Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) continues outlining the implementation of a student-centered approach to learning. This will involve instruction in Common Core State Standards, an on-going cycle of embedded formative assessment and student performance data analysis, and our transition to a proficiency based model.

As we identify opportunities for parent and family participation in the development and implementation of our improvement plans, we'll let you know. We hope that you will continue to support our school in these efforts, and we value your involvement.

Sincerely,



Brooke Olsen-Farrell
Superintendent



Sherri Nichols
Curriculum & Staff Development Coordinator

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