TO: Zoie Saunders, Secretary of Education
Charity Clark, Attorney General

FROM: Vermont School Boards Association, Vermont Superintendents Association, Vermont Principals' Association and Vermont-NEA

RE: Title VI Certification Letter

DATE: April 7, 2025

Thank you for meeting with representatives from our four associations this morning on Vermont's response to the April 3rd letter from the U.S. Department of Education requiring certification of compliance with Title VI. We appreciated the opportunity to convey concerns and learn about your proposed approach.

A number of the meeting participants were able to stay in the meeting after you left. We discussed your proposed approach and concluded that it is not workable. Expecting individual superintendents to certify compliance based on a cover letter (that they have not yet seen) that clarifies the legal boundaries of their certification will lead to a patchwork of responses that could put Vermont and local school districts at risk.

We strongly advocate for Vermont's Agency of Education to respond in a manner similar to the New York State Department of Education letter dated April 4, 2025. Such a response would send a clear message that Vermont has and will continue to comply with Title VI and that no further certification will be forthcoming.

In addition to clearly communicating Vermont's position to the U.S. Department of Education, your response would also send a powerful message to students and families across the state. At a time of increasing tension and uncertainty, Vermont must reaffirm its commitment to creating learning environments where all students feel safe and included. The state's leadership on this issue has the potential to strengthen trust and stability within our schools and communities.

We urge you to act as quickly as possible. Thank you in advance for your leadership.