

Zoie Saunders Starts Work as Vermont Education Secretary

First priorities are meeting with school leaders and getting to know Vermont communities

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Montpelier, Vt. – Vermont Secretary of Education Zoie Saunders started work today, leading Vermont’s Agency of Education and serving as the State’s chief school officer. Her immediate focus will be getting to know Vermont’s schools, teachers and communities, while working collaboratively to strengthen the state’s public education system. Secretary Saunders steps into the critical role as the State works to address the needs of its students, while also navigating affordability challenges.

“I look forward to getting to know Vermont’s education community” said Secretary of Education **Zoie Saunders**. I commit to listening and learning about the local education priorities, and will work hard to earn and keep the trust of Vermonters. While the Vermont education system faces challenges, some of them national and some of them unique to us, I am confident, by working together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and provide all Vermont students with pathways to a bright future.”

Secretary Saunders will travel around Vermont in the coming weeks. She will meet with school leaders and get to know Vermont’s education community. She is also meeting with her staff at the Agency and other key partners in state government to identify strengths and areas for growth.

In the months ahead, Secretary Saunders will kick off a formal listen and learn tour, to meet with teachers, students, families, administrators, and the public in communities around Vermont. The goal is for the Secretary to gain a deeper understanding of Vermont school communities and allow the Agency to build on their existing knowledge of community needs. The tour will focus on key education partners, students and families, and broader Vermont communities, to build a shared vision for what a high quality, equitable Vermont education can be. More details about the tour will be released soon.

[Read Secretary Saunders’s introductory message](#)

[Read Secretary Saunders’s bio on the AOE website](#)

About the Vermont Agency of Education

The Agency of Education implements state and federal laws, policies, and regulations to ensure all Vermont learners have equitable access to high-



quality learning opportunities. The Agency accomplishes this mission through the provision of its leadership, support, and oversight of Vermont's public education system. *Connect with the Vermont Agency of Education education.vermont.gov.*