

**Superintendent of Schools**  
**Karen E. Conroy**

As I reach my mid-year tenure as the Superintendent of Schools of Essex North Supervisory Union (ENSU), I am full of energy, enthusiasm, and optimism. According to author Michael Fullan, in his book entitled, *Leading in a Culture of Change*, “Energetic-enthusiastic-hopeful leaders cause greater moral purpose in themselves, bury themselves in change, naturally build relations and knowledge and seek coherence to consolidate a greater moral purpose.” There is no greater moral purpose than the task of educating our children and it is an honor to expand the supervisory union services to support the children of the newly created unified school district, Northeast Kingdom (NEK) Choice.

On August 30, 2017, the State Board of Education adjusted the boundaries of the current supervisory union to include the towns of East Haven, Granby, Guildhall, Kirby, Maidstone, and Victory, merging with the existing towns of Bloomfield, Brunswick, Lemington, and Norton to create the new NEK Choice School District. I would like to personally welcome these new communities and assure you that I am committed to providing the resources and educational opportunities available to each of the students in these communities for them to learn and thrive.

Act 46 encouraged governance to create cost efficiencies, but more importantly to create opportunities for students by providing NEK Choice residents with the option to choose the learning environment that best meets the needs of their child. The NEK Choice School District will provide educational services by paying tuition for its students to attend the public or approved independent school of their choice as allowed under Vermont law.

In the past several months, I have been working with the NEK Choice School District board members and the newly appointed ENSU Transitional Supervisory Union Board to prepare for full operation beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. These activities include a range of items from the development of policies on tuition and residency, to upgrades to improve the efficiency of the ENSU central office operations, to website changes to provide a means of communication to our parents and the community members. All of these transformational efforts are designed to ensure that systems and procedures are in place for a smooth shift for towns, school district officials and students.

I am looking forward to working with the communities of NEK Choice to communicate the education opportunities available for their youth. Please feel free to visit our office in the Canaan Community Office Building or contact us by phone if you have any questions.

Thank you for all you do to support our students.



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