

Introduction to the Agency of Education & Policy Priorities

Daniel M. French, Ed.D.
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Purpose Statement

The Agency of Education implements state and federal laws, policies, and regulations so that all Vermont learners have equitable access to high-quality learning opportunities. The Agency accomplishes this mission through the provision of leadership, support, and oversight of Vermont's public education system.

- By leadership, we mean developing a shared statewide vision and defining expectations for Vermont's education system in order to achieve a coherent and consistent understanding of policy and its implementation at the local level.
- By support, we mean providing professional learning opportunities and technical assistance so that stakeholders can meet legal requirements, ensure fiscal accountability, and make data-informed decisions.
- By oversight, we mean data collection and monitoring to verify that state and federal resources are used appropriately and effectively to establish a high-quality education system so that each Vermonter has access to high-quality learning opportunities.

Agency Structure

- Approximately 160 employees
- Organized into major divisions of about 20-30 staff:
 - Student Pathways
 - Data Management
 - Education Quality
 - Federal Programs
 - Student Supports
 - Finance
- Several smaller teams:
 - Legal
 - Communications and Legislative Affairs
 - Office of the Secretary
- Annual operating budget around \$156 million
- Ed Fund does not support operating costs in a significant manner

Initial Policy Priorities

- School Safety
- Simplification of Home Study
- Model Anti-Hate Curriculum and Racial Equity Policy
- Supporting the expansion of Computer Science education