

Helpful Legal and Legislative Concepts

1. Vermont Statutes Annotated (a.k.a. the “Green Books”)
 - This where MOST of the law lives! The Green Books contain Vermont’s statutes, and Title 16 is where almost all statutes related to education live.
 - The bottom of a statute contains its legislative history
 - When referring to something in the Green Books, we say, “16 V.S.A. § 164”
 - § = “section”
 - Structure of statutes
 - Title
 - [Part]
 - Chapter
 - [Subchapter]
 - Section
 - Subsection ((a), (b), (c)...)
 - Subdivision (everything below a subsection)
2. Session Law: law that is not codified in the Green Books. It has the same effect, but it is harder to find. Session law is often used for short-term or temporary programs or requirements that do not need to be printed in the Green Books “forever.” But it is still law!
3. Rulemaking: Administrative rules are adopted by the Executive Branch agencies. The Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR) reviews all proposed administrative rules. Committees of jurisdiction will often be asked to review applicable rules during LCAR’s review. While each Agency will often their rules posted to their website, Lexis Nexis contains the official version of each rule (SOS website).
4. Federal and State law
 - The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Federal law generally controls over a Vermont law.
 - Vermont State law hierarchy
 - Vermont Constitution
 - Statutes and session law
 - Rules
 - Municipal law
5. Website
 - Committee Page
 - Bill, Act & Resolution search
 - Reports & Research page
 - Vermont Laws
 - JFO website