

To: Diane Lanpher, chair House Appropriations Committee
Cc: Robin Scheu, vice chair, HAC, Marc Mihaly, HEC liaison

Budget memo, AOE budget.

Dear Reps. Lanpher and Scheu:

The House Education Committee has the following input on the AOE budget, and regular education-related budget requests.

1. University of Vermont, Vermont Student Assistance Corp. The HEC supports the asks of UVM and VSAC.
2. Vermont State Colleges. The HEC supports funding the VSCS at a level matching goals of the Select Committee on Higher Education. The funding levels established over the past several years reflects a plan to support the state colleges at a time they are working diligently to eliminate their structural deficit. We believe that adequate funding is vital for the state colleges to meet this critical goal that will put them on a more secure financial footing for a successful long-term future.
3. AOE pass-through grants for non-profit organizations. Our understanding is that AOE has funded these grant-funded organizations with a 3 percent increase. We support the funding level with the additional 3 percent.
4. AOE proposal for an additional FTE in the Flexible Pathways/CTE division. HEC supports the addition of this position
5. AOE limited service literacy position. The 2025 proposal does not include renewing this position. The House Education Committee strongly recommends converting this to a permanent position. AOE has made very clear in testimony over several years the importance of early literacy skills, both taught by teachers and acquired by students. We firmly believe that this position is vital to the state's efforts to raise literacy skills in younger students, which has been clearly shown to improve educational outcomes in later years.

Finally, House Education asks our colleagues on Appropriations to work with the AOE finance team to better tailor annual budget presentations to what legislators are specifically interested in seeing. We would especially advocate for clearly delineating AOE operations funded by the General Fund from those costs that rest with the Ed Fund.

Thank you for your consideration of our budget memo. These recommendations are separate and apart from our forthcoming funding requests within bills passed by our committee, which I outlined in previous correspondence.

Sincerely,
Peter Conlon
Chair, House Education Committee