

## 2023 Education Bills and Reports Overview

1. Bills signed into law
  - a. [Act 64; H.165, An act relating to school food programs and universal school meals](#)
    - i. Codified universal meals into law for all public school students and tuitioned students at approved independent schools
  - b. [Act 66; H.461, An act relating to making miscellaneous changes in education laws](#)
    - i. Repealed Shared School District Data Management System participation and development requirements
    - ii. Added non-Vermont postsecondary degree programs where the same degree is not available in Vermont to eligible National Guard Tuition benefits
    - iii. Amended home study program
    - iv. Extended life of Act 1 Working Group and created Act 1 Technical Advisory Group to complete work of Act 1
    - v. Amended Chapter 11 (union school districts) to allow a school board member candidate nominating petition to require either 60 voters or 1 percent of voters, whichever is less, to get on the ballot
  - c. [Act 29; S.138, An act relating to school safety](#)
    - i. Required options-based response drills policy for public and independent schools, based on guidance issued by Vermont School Safety Center and AOE
    - ii. Required SUs and independent schools to adopt an all-hazards emergency operations plan at least as comprehensive as the template maintained by the Vermont School Safety Center
    - iii. Required SUs, SDs, and independent schools to adopt access control and visitor management policies
    - iv. Required AOE to develop a model behavioral threat assessment team policy and procedures based on guidance issued by the Vermont School Safety Center and school districts and independent schools to adopt a policy consistent with the model policy; includes training requirements for teams and data and reporting requirements
      1. Schools with BTATs on July 1, 2023 to comply with model policy no later than 2024-2025 school year and with training requirements on or before 1<sup>st</sup> day of 2023-2024 school year
      2. Schools without BTATs on July 1, 2023 to establish a team no later than July 1, 2025
      3. Report on status of implementation of BTAT requirements due from AOE on or before January 15, 2024
    - v. Created Working Group on Student Protections from Harassment and Discriminations in Schools to study and give recommendations

- for how to address harassment and discrimination experienced by students. **Report due December 1, 2023**
- d. [Act 76; H.217, An act relating to child care, early education, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance](#)
- i. *\*\*\*This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 6, 2023, and the veto was overridden on June 20, 2023*
  - ii. Created the Prekindergarten Education Implementation Committee to assist AOE in improving and expanding accessible, affordable, and high-quality kindergarten education for children on a full-day basis on or before July 1, 2026
    - 1. **Report due on or before Dec. 1, 2024**
    - 2. AOE to develop model prek contract on or before Dec. 1, 2024
    - 3. **Prek pupil weight report due on or before Dec. 1, 2023**
    - 4. AOE to share data with JFO on or before August 1, 2023
  - iii. Contingent prospective repeal of prek weight if certain contingencies do not happen
- e. [Act 78; H. 494 An act relating to making appropriations for the support of government \(Big Bill\)](#)
- i. *\*\*\*This bill was vetoed by the Governor on May 27, 2023, and the veto was overridden on June 20, 2023*
  - ii. Sec. B.1101
    - 1. Created the Emerging Pathways Grant Program to provide prospective educators in emerging pathways with the support necessary for successful entry into the educator workforce
    - 2. Created the Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program which forgives eligible loans if a teacher agrees to work in a Vermont public school for at least 1 year per year of loan awarded
    - 3. \$30,000.00 appropriated to AOE for funding Historically Underrepresented Educator Affinity Groups Grant Program
  - iii. Sec. C.111 amends the PCB testing requirement to extend the deadline to test schools for PCBs from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2027
    - 1. Direction on funding of PCB remediation and removal
    - 2. Grants State authority to recover from a manufacturer of PCBs monies expended or awarded by the State for PCB investigation, testing, assessment, remediation, or removal of PCBs in a school above relevant action level
  - iv. Sec. E.131.1 created the School Construction Aid Task Force
    - 1. **Report due January 15, 2024**
  - v. Sec. E.500.1 created the Afterschool and Summer Learning Program Grant program using money from cannabis sales and use tax
  - vi. Sec. E.504 created the Adult Education and Literacy Highschool Completion Program Student Access Study Committee to review

- and report on decreased HSCP enrollment and subsequent adult basic education funding issues; **report due January 15, 2024**
- vii. Sec. E.511.1 created a moratorium on the approval of new approved independent schools
  - viii. Sec. F.1 suspended peer review process one-time licensure fee requirements in fiscal years 2024 through 2029
  - ix. Sec. F.2 required AOE to collect and report on demographic information from educators and report such information in its annual teacher and staff full-time equivalencies report on or before January 15<sup>th</sup> each year
- f. [Act 55; H.452, An act relating to expanding apprenticeship and other workforce opportunities](#)
- i. Added an Apprenticeship chapter to Title 21 (Labor)
  - ii. Designated the Department of Labor as the federally designated State Apprenticeship Agency
  - iii. Created the Vermont Registered Apprenticeship Program to “coordinate with State and local workforce development entities that serve individuals seeking employment and shall partner with State and local education and economic development leaders to expand the use of apprenticeship programs as a workforce and economic development strategy.”
- g. [Act 80; S.103, An act relating to amending the prohibitions against discrimination](#)
- i. Amended Fair Employment Practices Act and Fair Housing and Public Accommodations Act in several ways, including providing that harassment and discrimination need not be severe or pervasive to be unlawful
2. Bills voted out but not signed into law
- a. [S.133, An act relating to miscellaneous changes to education law](#)
- i. Senate sent this bill to the House on 3/30/23
    - 1. Proficiency-based learning study committee to recommend whether there are other systems of instruction, assessment, grading, and academic reporting that would better serve Vermonters
    - 2. Added requirement that libraries working group look at public safety concerns
    - 3. \*\*\*The following sections were stripped from the bill after intro by Senate Ed but before the Senate voted the bill out
      - a. Statewide curriculum audit
      - b. Postsecondary school marketing
  - ii. House Ed struck the entire contents of the bill and added language requiring reporting on PCB testing. The House passed this version and the bill was recommitted to Senate Education

- b. [S.134, An act relating to the creation of the School Construction Aid Task Force](#)
    - i. Referred to Senate Appropriations, still on wall
  - c. [H.483, An act relating to the accountability and oversight of approved independent schools that are eligible to receive public tuition](#)
    - i. On wall in Senate Education
  - d. [H.486, An act relating to school construction](#)
    - i. On wall in Senate Education
    - ii. Created a School Construction Task Force
    - iii. Paused PCB testing
  - e. [S. 56, An act relating to early child care and early childhood education](#)
    - i. Bill committed to House Appropriations on 1.3.24
3. One Time Reports Due
- a. [Act 1 Working Group final recommendations](#)
  - b. [Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont](#)
  - c. Funding and governance structures of CTE (AOE) (July 1, 2023)
  - d. [Prek pupil weight report \(AOE\)](#)
  - e. Working Group on Student Protections from Harassment in Schools (Dec. 1, 2023)
  - f. Statewide school calendar (AOE) (Jan. 15, 2024)
  - g. Status on behavioral threat assessment teams (AOE) (Jan. 15, 2024)
  - h. Emerging pathways grant program report (AOE) (Jan. 15, 2024)
  - i. School Construction Task Force (Jan. 15, 2024)
  - j. Adult Education and Literacy Highschool Completion Program Student Access Study Committee (Jan. 15, 2024)
  - k. Apprenticeship programs report (DOL) (Jan. 14, 2024)