




Addressing Equity, Quality & Cost: A Policy Framework



Vermont School Boards Association &
Vermont Superintendents Association

Education Policy Goals for 2015

- ▶ Address concerns about equity, efficiency and quality
- ▶ Allow districts to more flexibly deploy resources
- ▶ Do not assume one size fits all
- ▶ Expect local communities to design and implement their own structural changes
- ▶ Encourage structural change through a mix of incentives and disincentives
- ▶ Retain strong community connections



A Framework to Establish PreK-12 Education Systems

- ▶ Establish a policy requirement to provide educational opportunities that meet the Education Quality Standards (EQS) through integrated PreK-12 Education Systems by **date certain**
 - ▶ **Integrated PreK-12 Education Systems are defined as** units that are responsible for the equitable delivery of high quality education to all students in the region at a reasonable price for taxpayers
-



PreK-12 Education Systems: Outcomes

- ▶ PreK-12 Education Systems will be designed to achieve the following outcomes **in an efficient manner**:
 - ▶ equitable access to high quality learning opportunities that meet EQS;
 - ▶ stability in tax rates and sustainability for taxpayers;
 - ▶ conditions for stable leadership;
 - ▶ a connected professional workforce;
 - ▶ strong community influence and voice;
 - ▶ transparency and accountability; and
 - ▶ flexibility in the deployment of resources.



PreK-12 Education Systems: Local Design

- ▶ School districts will work with neighbors to develop PreK-12 Education Systems plans that are designed to accomplish the outcomes
- ▶ PreK-12 Education Systems can be governed by a single board or - where it can be demonstrated to the State Board that a different configuration will achieve the outcomes - multiple boards within a supervisory union structure



PreK-12 Education Systems: State Support

- ▶ AOE will publish and make available data on education quality and fiscal performance in order to inform local PreK-12 Education Systems design efforts.
- ▶ AOE will be resourced to work with districts to analyze data and support plan development.
- ▶ AOE will publish guidelines for State Board review of PreK-12 Education Systems plans.
- ▶ State Board will review PreK-12 Education Systems plans prior to submission to the electorate; it will approve the plan if:
 - ▶ It is reasonably designed to achieve the outcomes, and
 - ▶ Does not leave a district stranded



PreK-12 Education Systems: Incentives and Disincentives

- ▶ Act 153/156 tax incentives, transition funds, and construction aid will be available to those communities that approve their PreK-12 Education Systems plan by **date certain**.
 - ▶ Small schools grants will be retained where a district has approved a PreK-12 Education Systems plan.
 - ▶ ADM Hold Harmless protections will be time limited.
 - ▶ If PreK-12 Education Systems plans are not approved by the electorate by **date certain** transition funds and tax incentives will not be available for future partnerships.
-



PreK-12 Education Systems: Education Quality Reviews

- ▶ AOE will work with school board members, administrators and teachers to develop an Education Quality Review process that will use multiple sources of data and site visits in order to evaluate compliance with EQS and fiscal efficiency measures.
- ▶ **By date certain**, the Agency of Education will implement its Education Quality Review process.
- ▶ Within guidelines established by the AOE, if districts are not able to meet certain fiscal and educational benchmarks, the AOE/SBE will be empowered to intervene.

