

VERMONTERS FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY



Comparison of Education Reform Proposals including:

- Vermonters for Schools and Community (**V4SC**)
- Education Finance Working Group Report (**EFWG**)
- Accountable Education Funding Working Group Report and 1.22 testimony to House Ed Committee (**AEF**)
- Governor Shumlin's August Letter to Sec. Holcombe and Budget Address (**GOV**)
- H.883 (**H.883**)
- VT State Board of Education 2015 Legislative Agenda (**SBE**)
- Campaign for Vermont, Education Outcomes and Spending Analysis (**CFV**)
- AOE's priorities based on Sec. Holcombe's 1/9/15 presentation to the Legislature (**AOE**)
- Vermont National Education Association (**VNEA**)
- Vermont School Board Association (**VSB**)

NOTE: This chart represents a general comparison of major components and is not meant to be an exhaustive analysis of each proposal/ plan. An "X" indicates stated support for a position, lack of an "X" indicates no clear indication of support and may or may not indicate opposition.

Governance Structure	V4SC	EFWG	AEF	GOV	H.883	SBE	CFV	AOE	VNEA	VSBA	Details
Maintain local control through local boards	X		X				X*		X		VNEA: Reducing the # of superintendents ok as part of larger plan. CFV: *Charged with hiring/ firing and developing local draft budgets to submit to regional entity
Mandate consolidation		X			X						H883: By 2020
Support voluntary consolidation	X		X	X	X	X		X		X	GOV: Support school construction costs for voluntary consolidators. H883: Provide guidelines for early aligners. VSBA: Incentives like construction aid and AOE support
Create regional boards		X					X				CFV: Local boards are carried forward and they each send a rep to a regional board
Create Regional Educational Entities (REE)		X	X		X		X				EFWG: REE facilitate budgeting and shared services H883: District-wide budget with common property tax CFV: Organized around 17 tech centers, consolidate admin, budgeting, AP and Spec Ed, share teachers. "Regional Educational Administrative Districts (READs)" GOV: Modified special education block grant
Empower Supervisory Unions to ensure quality				X							
Eliminate Supervisory Unions							X				
Enhance State authority		X	X	X						X	GOV: Orphans school placement, quality oversight and intervention if school fails to meet measures, power to close schools EFWG: Place orphan schools in consolidated district AEF: Educational Commitment Certificate tied to funding

Tax Structure	V4SC	EFWG	AEF	GOV	H.883	SBE	CFV	AOE	VNEA	VSBA	
End variable statewide residential property tax	X	X	X								
Create a fixed statewide property tax		X	X								EFWG: Tie excess spending surcharge to property tax rate surcharge AEF: Set statewide fixed rate, raise rest through GF.
Business and non-residential property tax continues	X	X	X	X							
Limit Income sensitivity for homestead tax			X								AEF: Spending above state-wide defined level supported through local taxes and not income sensitized.
End income sensitivity and rebate programs		X					X?				CFV: The cost of income sensitivity explicit on tax bills as a separate, non-education charge, not a requirement of Brigham.
End statewide property tax rate in favor of regional property rates							X				
Fund schools through income tax	X	X								X	V4SC: Set at the state level based on what needs to be raised. Non-Residential, commercial and non-house sites still assessed property tax. EFWG: Replace property tax, from community to community, based on consolidated district budget.
Create a special State Property Tax Relief Fund		X									EFWG: Excess surcharge taxes go in this fund and reduce statewide property tax following year.
Tax bill be billable monthly and show full charge									X		VNEA: Variable income tax option and keeping income sensitivity is okay as long as they are transparent.
Tiered Luxury tax applied to districts above state-wide defined level			X								VNEA: Considers this luxury tax "excessively harsh."

Funding/ Cost	V4SC	EFWG	AEF	GOV	H.883	SBE	CFV	AOE	VNEA	VSBA	
Regional Block Grant		X									VNEA: Weaknesses outweigh any benefits.
Incentives for Regional Education Districts		X		X	X				X*		EFWG: AOE fully resources to provide TA to districts considering RED. H883: Keep current incentives and create new ones. GOV: Construction funding for merging districts. VNEA: *Don't object to them, but not what leads the way.
Incentives for cost-effectiveness			X						X*		VNEA: * Limited, AOE doesn't have resources to support.
End phantom student/hold harmless provision		X		X							
Keep the hold harmless provisions						X			X		
Phase out small school grants		X		X			X				
Maintain support for small schools	X								X		
Adjust equalized pupil weighting	X*	X				X	X		X		V4SC: Increase weight for students in poverty. SBE: Review of arbitrary weights must be high priority. VNEA: Increase weight of students in poverty.
More funds for higher poverty areas	X	X		X?					X		GOV: Cited Holcombe Data re: boys in poverty.
No unfunded mandates	X	X	X	X		X*			X	X	EFWG: General fund cover costs. SBE: "Limited" new educational program legislative actions.
Education funding is capped		X	X							X	VSBA: Revisit the excess spending threshold/ formula to encourage local boards to act where needed.
Decrease consequences for excess spending									X		VNEA: It is a legitimate policy device but recent changes haven't gone into effect yet let run their course.
State cap spending but higher okay locally		X	X								AEF: Additional funds raised locally through town property tax and private sources.
Adopt statewide, standardized accounting system and require use	X			X	X	X	X				V4SC: Create a complete training program with funding for school districts to shift to the new system. GOV: Statewide "common chart of accounts"
Address Health Care costs						X			X	X	

Education Fund	V4SC	EFWG	AEF	GOV	H.883	SBE	CFV	AOE	VNEA	VSBA	
Maintain and defend the Education Fund	X		X							X	VSBA: Establish a predictable split of, say, 60%-40% (Property/GF)
Shift the Education Fund		X		X			X			X	VSBA: Restrict to items that are overseen by local boards. Find state-level sources for the Community High school, Adult Basic Ed, and retired teacher health care. GOV: Community HS, Adult Basic ed not out of Ed Fund. CFV: Shift costs of education payment, transportation, and technical education to regional budget. EFWG: Distribute Ed funds through regional block grants

Performance	V4SC	EFWG	AEF	GOV	H.883	SBE	CFV	AOE	VNEA	VSBA	
Support Universal Pre-K			X	X		X		X		X	VSBA: Promoted adoption in 2013 with VSA
Increase student to staff ratio			X	X				X		X	SBE: Further analysis of staffing ratios needed
Enhance Education Quality Standard assessments	X			X		X		X			GOV: Decrease reliance on test scores.
Increase quality data	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			AEF: Opportunity/ equity and reasonable costs are tied to data GOV: AOE work with VSBA to support data and analytics to give local boards better tools. H883: Attached to finance reporting, also data on quality and variety of educational opps, student outcomes and costs. AOE: Look at standardized tests.
Increase professional supervision and evaluation	X			X				X	X		
Principals hire/ fire teachers, superintendents hire/ fire principal	X	X							X*		V4SC: Support increasing principal's role in governance and admin. VNEA: * Okay, but ensure capacity/ revise principal duties.
Opt-in for Statewide		X					*		**		EFWG: Statewide model contract

teacher contracts											H883: RED responsible for collective bargaining CFV: * Contracts handled at regional level. VNEA: ** Look to locals for “models” or have VSBA create, not AOE- don’t pursue statewide opt in VSBA: Look at the criteria for fact finding, general criteria is “comparables”, focus on other criteria.
Prohibit teacher strikes				X							
Statewide guidelines to support schools budgeting for, attracting and maintaining excellent teachers and admin.	X			X							GOV: Leadership turnover too high. AOE work with VASBO and high ed partners to increase prof. development opportunities for school managers.
Create leadership academy that build capacity for community engagement and develops leaders at all levels	X				X						H883: Foster stable leadership by developing both school and district leaders
Small classroom innovation grants to support growing and piloting best-practice programs				X	X		X			X	H883: Expands beyond classroom innovation to encourage policy
Increase grads going to post-secondary	X			X	X			X			V4SC: Through increased family involvement GOV: Develop an alternative to the cost-sharing legislation, Act 77 (dual enrollment)
	V4SC	EFWG	AEF	GOV	H.883	SBE	CFV	AOE	VNEA	VSBA	