

## **H.361 – As Passed by the House Goals**

(b) Design; local decisions. This legislation is designed to encourage and support local decisions and actions linked to the Education Quality Standards, transparency, accountability, and cost-effectiveness, including decisions and actions that:

- (1) promote equity in the quality and variety of educational opportunities available throughout the State, regardless of the school's size or location;
- (2) improve student performance as established by each school in the continuous improvement plan it develops pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 165;
- (3) provide a sequential, logical curriculum to all students;
- (4) promote students' ability to think critically; communicate verbally, in writing, and through the use of technology; collaborate; and solve problems creatively;
- (5) advance solutions, including structural changes, that are developed and implemented at the local level to meet community needs and priorities;
- (6) enhance the possibility that the State's small schools remain open if they are able to provide students with equitable educational opportunities and improved student performance at a stable, affordable cost;
- (7) create enhanced opportunities and other conditions that promote stability in leadership;
- (8) foster strong relationships between schools and the broader community and increased parental and community engagement at the school level;
- (9) facilitate operational and educational efficiencies and effectiveness through greater flexibility in the management of resources to support student achievement and success, with a goal of increasing the district-level ratio of students to full-time equivalent staff;
- (10) improve affordability and stability for taxpayers; and
- (11) increase public accountability and transparency through:
  - (A) greater consistency in educational governance structures; and
  - (B) the accounting and reporting of financial information in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and as otherwise required by the Secretary of Education.