

Dear Education Committee,

1. Why does the bill refer to supervisory districts as the 'preferred model'? Every year the Department of Education publishes per pupil spending by school type ([http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Data\\_2014\\_Per\\_Pupil\\_Spending\\_by\\_School\\_Type.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Data_2014_Per_Pupil_Spending_by_School_Type.pdf). ) For 2014, the Department of Education tells us that K-12 districts, on average spend \$350 more on budgetary spending per pupil than supervisory unions. If you force the 45,415 students currently in Supervisory Unions to an on-average more expensive model of governance, that's a potential spending increase of \$15.9M. But if the in state data isn't enough, let's look at a state that did do just what you are proposing...

2. **West Virginia:** <http://www.ruraledu.org/articles.php?id=2043>

No one has saved a dime in WV despite closing 300 schools.

- The number of local administrators has increased by 16% in the last 10 years despite a 13% decrease in student enrollment
- West Virginia spends more of its education dollar on transportation than any other state

I don't hear Vermonters crying out to spend the same, or more, on education and then have a greater percentage of the education budget fund expanded administration and transportation costs. Every year, every year Montpelier asks us to change the governance structure with no data to back up any type of savings or overall gain. Every year. We tell you that the smaller rural communities are part of a Supervisory Union, because that is what makes sense for our communities.

Suggestions:

Find the 5 most efficient SUs in the state and the 3 most efficient SDs in the state and work on best practices for each model.

Work with the federal government on unfunded education mandates. Education needs a bigger piece of the federal pie.

Attach a portion of the education tax to income.

But stop trying to decrease local decision making. This is a red herring. You will not fix spending this way and you know it. West Virginia has already shown us what happens when the outdated model of 'bigger is better' and 'one-size-fits-all' is imposed on a rural, geographically diverse state.

Year after year you work to put Vermont 20 years behind West Virginia. Please don't let this happen.

Sorsha Anderson  
Middlesex VT 05602