

H. 480 – Miscellaneous Education Amendments
Senate Education Committee’s Proposal of Amendment
(5/1/15)

Section by Section Summary

Sec. 1. Adds “prekindergarten” to the definition of “elementary education” for federal grant purposes. Specifically, this will allow school districts to include the average daily membership of prekindergarten children for the purposes of receiving additional federal E-rate technology funds.

Secs. 2. Repeals a lingering inaccurate reference to the inability to designate a public school. The General Assembly explicitly authorized public school designation in 2009 in amendments to 16 V.S.A. § 827.

Sec. 3. Repeals 16 V.S.A. § 1421 regarding equipment for testing sight and hearing. The language is outdated and the concept is inherent in more expansive language of § 1422.

Sec. 4.: Corrects a cross-reference in 16 V.S.A. § 2179 to the wrong subsection in 21 V.S.A. § 342.

Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 2902 *currently* requires all public schools to “develop and maintain an educational support system for students who require additional assistance in order to succeed or be challenged in the general education environment.” At the time the law was originally enacted, the statute referenced aspects of what would be included in an educational support system because those aspects were not addressed anywhere else. Since that time, the State Board of Education and the Agency have adopted detailed rules and policies that reflect best-practices.

Section 5 updates § 2902 to reflect current best-practice and the newly adopted rules for Education Quality Standards. For example, it substitutes the term “tiered system of support” for “educational support system,” which aligns with the language in the recently adopted Education Quality Standards and reflects current understanding of support systems. In addition, this section removes many of the references to what *should* be included in a support system because the details are now provided in rule. (Both the House and Senate approved this language in nearly identical form in 2014.)

Sec. 6. Repeals subsection (d) in 16 V.S.A. § 4015. The first sentence refers to a process used prior to enactment of Act 68 and the current process is addressed elsewhere in law. The second sentence refers to a repealed portion of a statute.

Sec. 7. Repeals a reference in 16 V.S.A. § 4025(a)(4) to 32V.S.A. § 5402a. Section 5402a was repealed in 2012.

Sec. 8. Effective on July 1, 2015.