



219 North Main Street | Suite 402 | Barre, VT 05641  
(p) 802-479-1030 | (f) 802-479-1835 | [education.vermont.gov](http://education.vermont.gov)

TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: The House Appropriations Committee  
FROM: Rebecca Holcombe, Ed.D., Secretary of Education (RH)  
SUBJECT: Budget adjustment to account for costs at the Agency of Education associated  
with the closure of Burlington College  
DATE: January 10, 2017

---

**Problem:**

The abrupt closing of Burlington College at the end of this past May left the College's records in a chaotic state. The State Board of Education is responsible for assigning the student records to a similar institution who can maintain the records and respond to student records requests.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, the Agency attempted to find an institution willing to take on those records. However, the records were in very poor condition and poorly organized, and no institution was willing to take them on.

**Solution:**

The Agency agreed to be temporarily assigned to be the holder and processor of the College's student records by the State Board of Education. The AOE was tasked with putting the records in order, so that they could then be permanently assigned to another more appropriate institution.

The Agency is tracking the additional costs it incurs with respect to these records, which include the cost of a mover to relocate the records to the AOE, considerable staff time and payment of a licensing fee to the company that provided the online student record management system. We anticipate this will be our only budget adjustment request for a net increase to our General Fund appropriation.

**Cost implications:**

We estimate we will need to spend an additional \$60,000 in General Fund (FY2017 budget adjustment). As some of the records are in electronic format, access to the licensed program which stores these records requires a software license fee. This estimate includes yet to be determined costs associated with transferring the records to another institution and costs to the new institution to adapt the records to its existing system. The Agency staff time has been made available to organize the existing records, to get these records into a consistent format, and to index them. This is a precondition of transfer to a more appropriate entity. We will not double bill the state for their time, but note that this additional demand, which has been substantial, has taken staff away from other full time responsibilities and delayed work on other priorities.