

To: House Appropriations Committee  
From: House Education Committee

Date: Feb. 15, 2018

Subject: HEC reaction to Governor's Proposed FY 19 Budget and committee priorities.

The House Education Committee has reviewed the Governor's Proposed FY 2019 Budget and supports the education related proposals, most of which are required or standard language, including: Sec. B. 1101 (Workforce Education and Training Initiative); Sec. E. 100 (Executive Branch Position Authorizations – does not increase the total number of authorized positions); Sec. E. 502 (Special Education: Formula Grants); Sec. E. 504.1 (Flexible Pathways); Sec. 514 (State Teacher's Retirement System payment); Sec. E. 515 (Retired Teachers Health Care and Medical Benefits); and Sec. E. 602 (Vermont State Colleges, standard language).

Sec. E. 513 Appropriation and Transfer to Education includes a provision to keep \$200,000 of the appropriation in the General Fund to fund the Agency of Education for implementing a centralized administration of the statewide universal pre-kindergarten program at the AOE.

The House Education Committee supports this funding. The AOE intends to create a statewide system to administer payments, contracts and records for the Universal Pre-kindergarten Program. The committee believes this will relieve an administrative and financial burden on school districts that will be equal to or in excess of the requested funding.

#### Committee Funding Priorities:

The House Education Committee is generating a committee bill that will revamp special education service delivery and funding statewide over a number of years. It will require initial investment, but result in much greater savings than the investment as the model is implemented.

For FY 19, the committee bill on special education proposes \$200,000 for technical consulting for school districts and the Agency of Education to implement the recommendations in (FULL NAME OF DMG REPORT HERE). These services would be contracted.

The committee bill also proposes (\$NEED AMOUNT HERE) to provide three additional positions at the AOE to provide ongoing support, training and legal advice for all school districts to implement the recommendations of (DMG REPORT). The positions would also support the AOE and school districts as the state transitions to a census model of special education funding that will improve services and hold costs at current levels.

Finally, the committee supports the Governor's previous request for \$300,000 in the Budget Adjustment bill for an Education Weighting Study. This study was requested in Act 49 but the AOE was unable to carry it out for lack of staff and funding. MORE HERE?