

<u>Recommended Reform of Act 166</u>	<u>AHS and AOE Proposed Statutory Changes submitted on 1/25/18</u>	<b>Necessary Rules if Statutory Changes are Adopted</b>
<p>1) The State of Vermont should continue to sponsor a universal PreK voucher program that would allow families of children who are 3 or 4 years old and not in kindergarten to have 10 hours of PreK, for 35 weeks a year.</p>	<p><b>Minor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will clarify definition of PreK to match other definitions of PreK elsewhere in Title 16 so that a “Prekindergarten child” as three or four years of age, or five years of age but not yet eligible for kindergarten.</li> <li>• Days and hours will remain the same.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifics regarding student eligibility for participation.</li> <li>• Process by which individual students may be eligible for additional publically funded PreK depending on IEP determination.</li> </ul>
<p>2) The State of Vermont should continue to sponsor a portable voucher that allows families to access those services in the location of their choosing.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process for parents to enroll students to the state for public PreK funding at the private or public provider of their choosing.</li> </ul>
<p>3) The State of Vermont should continue to fund the PreK voucher program from the Education Fund.</p>	<p><b>Significant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will specify the mechanism by which the Ed Fund will be charged at the state level for PreK and to allow local school systems the flexibility to offer more hours of PreK if their voters agree.</li> <li>• Will specify that a district in which a child resides may include in its average daily membership any local child to whom it provides PreK for more than 10 hours per week for 35 weeks and doesn’t charge tuition.</li> <li>• Will maintain that private providers, or a public provider that is not a child’s district of residence, may receive additional payment from a parent or guardian for PreK or child care services beyond the publically funded hours.</li> <li>• Will maintain that programs may not impose additional fees on publically funded hours.</li> </ul>	<p>None</p>

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4) The State of Vermont should discontinue joint administration (AOE and AHS) of the PreK voucher program and should instead have the AOE be the lead agency to make decisions and administer the program.	<b>Significant:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All references to joint administration will be struck and replaced with AOE as the Agency tasked with implementation.</li> <li>• Will describe the monitoring and evaluation of the PreK system.</li> <li>• Will specify social and emotional development of children as one of the results to be evaluated along with school readiness, and proficiency in numeracy, and literacy.</li> </ul>	None save those described in 5 and 6 below
5) The State of Vermont should seek efficiency in the PreK voucher program through centralized accounting and contracting at the AOE for providers and school systems.	<b>Significant:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will specify that AOE will centralize agreements and payments for publically funded PreK for public and private providers.</li> <li>• Will require the State Board of Education adopt Rules related to this new process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process by which providers will register to receive publically funded PreK vouchers</li> <li>• Process by which providers will be reimbursed for services provided including the required data submissions from providers</li> </ul>

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<p>6) The State of Vermont should simplify the mechanisms for participation, regulation and monitoring to ensure that the least amount of dual regulation and duplicative efforts for all program types exists. Issues to address include:</p> <p>a) Pursuing single regulation so that CDD would regulate private providers and AOE would regulate public providers.</p> <p>b) Clarifying the value of the voucher for private and public providers (fiscal transparency).</p> <p>c) Clarifying the quality criteria programs must meet to participate in the PreK voucher program.</p>	<p><b>Significant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will eliminate the ability to establish regions.</li> <li>• Will eliminate the prohibition for public programs to expand or open.</li> <li>• Will specify that private providers will be regulated by CDD as they are currently.</li> <li>• Will specify that public programs will be regulated by AOE and their local school boards.</li> <li>• Will require that private and public providers will receive the same value voucher for each student participating</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderate:</b></p> <p><i>Private Providers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will eliminate the 3 STARS with a plan option for private providers.</li> <li>• Will specify that private providers have a licensed and ECE/ECSE endorsed teacher who is present during the hours that are publically funded.</li> </ul> <p><i>Public Providers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will maintain that public providers have a licensed and ECE/ECSE endorsed teacher who provides direct instruction during the hours that are publically funded.</li> <li>• Will create requirement that public provider programs will need to submit an early learning plan as part of their school wide plans approved by their Boards and the AOE to be eligible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific program criteria</li> <li>• Method of calculating the tuition voucher value</li> <li>• Appeals process</li> <li>• Process by which providers will be monitored and the effect of publically funded PreK will be evaluated</li> <li>• Establish safety and quality requirements for public providers</li> <li>• Process describing what public providers will need to document in their plans</li> </ul>

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7) The State of Vermont should provide time to prepare for implementation of these recommendations.	<b>Minor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requested that the law be implemented July 1, 2019 to give time for implementation.</li> </ul>	None
8) The State of Vermont should revisit the quality criteria for provider participation in the PreK voucher program.	See above#6	None