

## Overview of PreK Proposed Statutory and Rule Changes

<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>
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.	<b>Minor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarify definition of preK to match other definitions of preK elsewhere in Title 16</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>
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.	None.	<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>
3) The State of Vermont should continue to fund the PreK voucher program from the Education Fund.	<b>Significant:</b> <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> </ul>	None
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 evaluation to be done for each program.</li> </ul>	None
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> <li>Process by which providers will be monitored</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. 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private provider programs continue largely the same with a dropping of the 3 STARS with a plan option</li> <li>• 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>• Process describing what public providers will need to document in their plans</li> <li>• Specific program criteria</li> <li>• Appeals process</li> <li>• Method of calculating the tuition voucher value</li> <li>• Description of monitoring</li> </ul>
<p>7) The State of Vermont should provide time to prepare for implementation of these recommendations.</p>	<p><b>Minor:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested that the law be implemented July 1, 2019 to give time for implementation.</li> </ul>	<p>None</p>
<p>8) The State of Vermont should revisit the quality criteria for provider participation in the PreK voucher program.</p>	<p>See above#6</p>	<p>None</p>