



Vermont RURAL EDUCATION Collaborative

Our Mission: The Vermont Rural Education Collaborative nourishes and inspires rural educators, students, and communities to learn, share, and thrive.

Our Purpose

Now more than ever, our community schools and school communities require our collective commitment and investment if they are to thrive.

VREC seeks to:

- Elevate the voice of rural schools and communities
- Connect and empower isolated educators, administrators, community members and students
- Leverage limited resources to tackle pressing issues
- Provide opportunities for all students in and outside of school
- Move rural education forward

Our Practice

The Vermont Rural Education Collaborative:

- Serves over 5,500 students K-12
- Comprises over 40 public schools and 7 districts: Kingdom East, North Country Supervisory Union, Caledonia Central Supervisory Union, St Johnsbury Schools, Orange East Supervisory Union, Essex North Supervisory Union and Orleans Central Unified Union School District
- Schools and districts all work collaboratively to enhance opportunities for all students and improve equity and the quality of education in our region





Our Pathways

VREC has developed four interconnected and interdependent pathways around which our work clusters.

LEARN

VREC is :

- The primary vehicle for professional development opportunities for educators in the NEK
- A hub for community members to learn, discuss and support schooling in our region

INNOVATE

VREC spreads increased innovation by:

- Providing networked opportunities for authentic place-based learning
- Offering a signature mini-grant program to students and educators
- Encouraging the expansion of best practices
- Increasing innovation in scale regionally

ADVOCATE

VREC advocates greater rural educational equity and opportunity by painting a vivid picture of the assets, needs and potential of the children of our region.

- We work with Voices for Vermont's Children and UVM to highlight existing data and contribute to new research
- We tell the story of the challenges and

assets of rural Vermont and our community schools

- We recognize the achievements of students, educators and community members
- We communicate research and writing that illustrates an accurate and inspiring narrative of our region
- We communicate a long-term vision for our youth
- We strive for equity

PARTNER

VREC, together with other organizations at the local, state and national level, makes a difference in the lives and aspirations of children and communities.

- **National Partners:** Battelle for Kids, rural collaboratives in other states
- **State Partners:** Voices for Vermont's Children, Public Assets Institute, University of Vermont
- **Local Partners:** Center for an Agricultural Economy, Northwoods Stewardship Center, Old Stone House Museum, Green Mountain Farm to School, Northeast Kingdom Collaborative