

1 Sec. X. EDUCATION; CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND;

2 APPROPRIATIONS

3 (a) Appropriations; prekindergarten-grade 12.

4 (1) The sum of \$25,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus
5 Relief Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2020 for the purpose of
6 reimbursing fiscal year 2020 COVID-19 costs incurred by school districts.

7 The Agency of Education shall administer this reimbursement program, issue
8 guidance to school districts on reimbursable costs, and establish a process for
9 submission of, and reimbursement for, these costs.

10 (A) Any unused portion of this funding shall carry over into the fiscal
11 year 2021 grant program under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

12 (B) If claims for reimbursement exceed the amount of the
13 appropriation under this subdivision (1), the Agency of Education shall prorate
14 the amount of reimbursement and, on or before July 31, 2020, shall report to
15 the House and Senate Committees on Education and on Appropriations the
16 total amount of unreimbursed cost and the amount of unreimbursed costs for
17 each school district.

18 (C) On or before June 26, 2020, the Agency of Education shall issue
19 the guidance to school districts. On or before July 15, 2020, school districts
20 shall submit claims for reimbursement to the Agency of Education. The

1 Agency of Education shall issue payment of reimbursable costs to school
2 districts as soon as reasonably possible.

3 (2) The sum of \$20,000,000.00 is appropriated from the Coronavirus
4 Relief Fund to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2021 for the purpose of
5 providing grant funding to supervisory unions to assist with the COVID-19
6 costs incurred by school districts. The Agency of Education shall administer
7 this grant program and, on or before June 26, 2020, issue guidance to
8 supervisory unions on costs that are eligible for this grant funding. The
9 Agency of Education shall allocate grant funding to supervisory unions in an
10 amount up to their proportional allocation of funding for Elementary and
11 Secondary Education Title-1A funds.

12 (b) Appropriations; higher education. The sum of \$5,000,000.00 is
13 appropriated from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Agency of [TBD by
14 HAC] in fiscal year 2021 for the purpose of reimbursing COVID-19 costs
15 incurred by the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (UVM)
16 and the Vermont State Colleges (VSC). The Agency of [TBD by HAC] shall
17 administer this reimbursement program, issue guidance to UVM and VSC on
18 reimbursable costs, and establish a process for submission of, and
19 reimbursement for, these costs. Up to \$3,000,000.00 may be allocated to VSC
20 and up to \$2,000,000.00 may be allocated to UVM to cover reimbursable
21 costs.

1 (c) Scope of guidance. The guidance issued by the Agency of Education
2 and the Agency of [TBD by HAC] under subsections (a) and (b) of this section
3 shall allow for use of that funding to cover all costs permitted under the
4 CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 and related guidance, and under any other
5 applicable law.

6 (d) Purpose or determination of necessity; due to COVID-19. The General
7 Assembly determines that the expenditure of monies from the Coronavirus
8 Relief Fund as set forth in this section is necessary to assist public schools,
9 UVM, and VSC cover a variety of COVID-19 costs and that the guidance
10 required to be issued by the Agency of Education and the Agency of [TBD by
11 HAC] under this section is intended to ensure that these costs are due to or
12 resulting from COVID-19.

13 (e) Use of appropriations for prekindergarten costs. The appropriations
14 under subsection (a) of this section shall not be used for costs incurred by a
15 prekindergarten program that is not operated by a school district.

16 (f) Use of surplus funds.

17 (1) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 567, a school district that has a fiscal
18 year 2020 surplus due to funds received under the CARES Act shall carry
19 those surplus funds into fiscal year 2021 as revenue without waiting for an
20 audit to confirm the existence or amount of the surplus funds.

1 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the State
2 shall reduce the amount of the education payment authorized by 16 V.S.A.
3 chapter 133 to each school district for fiscal year 2021 by subtracting from the
4 first fiscal year 2021 payment due to each school district the surplus amount
5 attributed to that school district pursuant this subsection (f).