



Winter 2018-19

## Tax Commissioner's Letter Predicts Stable Rates; Suggests Diversion of Ed Fund Dollars to Early Education

*Nicole L. Mace, Executive Director*

On November 30, the Commissioner of Taxes issued the statutorily-required letter announcing the non-residential tax rate and the income and property dollar yields for FY20. These forecasts are the product of a collaboration between the Agency of Education, the Department of Taxes, the Department of Finance and Regulation, and the Joint Fiscal Office.

The forecasted FY20 homestead yield is \$10,666, while the income yield is expected to be \$13,104. These figures mean that average homestead and income rates are expected to be the same in FY20 as in FY19. The non-residential rate is forecast to be \$1.58, the same as FY19.

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The Tax Commissioner's letter represents only a prediction at this point – the legislature will set the final yields and tax rates after voters have approved budgets and the legislature knows how much money needs to be raised by taxes to fund the budgets that were approved.

**“These figures mean that average homestead and income rates are expected to be the same in FY20 as in FY19.”**

The forecasted rates are based on an anticipated 3.24% increase in education spending statewide. Last year, education spending grew by 1.7%. The reason education tax rates are expected to be level in FY20 is due to 2.25% growth in the grand list (compared to 1.4% growth in FY19), forecasted growth in revenue, and continued use of one-time money (\$21M in undesignated reserve funds). You can see projected comparisons between FY19 and FY20 revenue and spending on the Education Fund Outlook on the Joint Fiscal Office website.

Last year, the General Assembly made changes to the revenue sources for the Education Fund. Act 11 eliminated the General Fund transfer to the Education Fund and reallocated Education Fund and the General Fund revenues. The changes to the sources of revenues to the Education fund include adding 25% of revenues from meals and rooms taxes and allocating 100% of the revenues from the sales and use tax (previously it was 36%).

The consensus forecast predicts that revenue from the sales and use tax will increase by \$12.5 million in FY 20; meals and rooms taxes will increase by \$1.6 million, and the purchase and use tax will

increase by \$1.2 million. Part of the reason for the predicted increase in the sales and use tax comes from the state's ability to collect taxes from online sales due to the June 2018 United States Supreme Court decision in *South Dakota vs. Wayfair*.

In the Dec 1 letter, the Administration proposes to allocate \$6.6 million in these new online sales and use tax revenue to fund early care

and learning initiatives, without specifying where those dollars would be invested. The letter also states that if school boards hold education spending growth to the same level as FY19 (1.7%), we could free up over \$21 million to both lower tax rates and increase investment in early care and learning, again without specifying that Education Fund dollars would be used for education purposes.

**“we strongly oppose any diversion of Education Fund dollars to programs not within the jurisdiction of public school district or supervisory unions.”**

The VSBA has long been a proponent of making investments in early education through the expansion of universal access to prekindergarten. However, through our resolutions, we strongly oppose any diversion of Education Fund dollars to programs not within the jurisdiction of public school districts or supervisory unions. Any expansion of public dollars to our early care and education system must assure

equity and quality, and school districts should play a central role in assuring accountability in publicly-funded early education programs.

This means we will continue our call for substantial reforms to Act 166 (universal access to prekindergarten) with our partner education associations. Before increasing investments in the early years, changes to the law must be made to ensure that access to publicly-funded prekindergarten is available to our most vulnerable populations, including children with disabilities, children living in poverty, and children living in rural communities without access to high quality child care settings.

Furthermore, the K-12 system is being asked to achieve scale reflecting declines in enrollment and more efficiently deliver education services. In an environment of scarce public resources, the state should require cohesive governance and delivery systems that deliver high quality, affordable prekindergarten education, just as we seek to attain them in K-12 education.

We will continue to work with our partners, the General Assembly, and the Administration to make progress on our collective efforts to ensure young children have access to high quality early education through a system that assures accountability and oversight of this critical public investment. 🚌



# Thank You!



## *January is School Board Recognition Month*

On January 15 the legislature will pass a resolution declaring January School Board Recognition Month, an opportunity to acknowledge the tireless contributions of Vermont's school boards and school board members.

Every school board member knows that Vermont's education system is evolving rapidly. We are navigating a course that balances providing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and delivering high quality, equitable education for every student with pressure to contain costs. School boards are tasked with eliciting local input to ensure their local education system reflects the values and priorities of the community. This evolution has brought with it the challenges of deliberation, debate, and change.

For the first time this year, Vermont's own **Darn Tough** is helping the VSBA honor all school board members for School Board Recognition Month. **Darn Tough** is giving each board member around the state a free pair of socks! "I'm glad we can show some appreciation for those who donate so much time to educating our kids," said General Manager Brent Blevins. "After all, it's a **Darn Tough** job!"

You'll be able to order your socks at [darntough.com](http://darntough.com) through the month of January. VSBA will mail each member a unique promotional code that can be used to purchase one pair of socks. Those codes will be sent out in mid-December, so make sure to check your mail box! 🚌

# A Message from the New VSBA President, Clarence Haynes



Let me begin by telling you all a little bit about myself.

I retired a few years ago after nearly thirty years working for the United States Postal Service. I have been a member of my local and regional school boards for much of my adult life (more than twenty-five years). Like all of you, I run for election every three years and I draft and negotiate budgets annually. I go to Town Meeting to defend those budgets to the town. Sometimes they pass; and sometimes not.

I have lived in Middletown Springs for my entire life. My wife, Sharon, and I have been married for forty-five years. We have four grown children, and five grandchildren, all of whom live here in Middletown Springs.

I have been the Rutland County representative to the VSBA for the past several years. Any board member who would like to raise an issue with the VSBA should contact your regional representative so that your concerns can be discussed at our monthly board meeting. The actions taken by the VSBA are a direct result of the actions approved during the Annual Meetings of the VSBA, which are held every October.

The legislative season is fast approaching, with a newly elected house and senate and a re-elected governor, as well as a relatively new secretary of education who began his service in August. The topics that will come up for discussion this ses-

sion are mostly unknown to us at this point.

Whether you feel Act 46 was a positive or negative piece of legislation, everyone should have a good idea of how that legislation has affected your district. Now comes the real work of ensuring that the consolidated districts continue to provide a high quality and equitable education for all Vermont students, at a price that the local taxpayers can afford.

Another important issue that school boards will be grappling with is the result of the statewide health care negotiations which will begin this spring under Act 11. This statewide negotiation for all school employees is a major shift in the health-care negotiation and payment paradigm. The 5-member coalition representing VSBA and school board interests has been named and will begin their work soon.

There will undoubtedly be many more issues that will come before the VSBA, and as always we will work to represent the school boards in Vermont to the best of our ability.

In closing, this article may seem a bit rambling or disjointed. I ask for your patience, as I am not a writer and have never claimed to be, but I am happy to have discussions with any board members on any topic at any time. Feel free to contact me through your regional representatives or email me directly at [clarence.haynes@gmail.com](mailto:clarence.haynes@gmail.com). 🚌


MEMBER FEEDBACK  
FROM THE 2018  
VSBA REGIONAL MEETINGS



At the regional meetings this fall, we asked members to share information, concerns, and questions with the VSBA to help inform our participation in the following initiatives. School board members who attended the regional meetings got together in small groups with their peers. Notetakers captured the discussion and submitted their notes to VSBA staff. The following is intended to summarize the themes of the regional meeting member feedback. VSBA staff will bring this feedback to the relevant task forces and commissions this month.

**Act 173 Special Education Funding Advisory Group:** Act 173 makes significant changes to the way the state delivers services to struggling students and how we fund special education by moving away from a reimbursement model to a census-based block grant. The act creates an advisory group that will meet from September 2018 through June 2021. VSBA has a seat on the group.

School board members had questions and concerns about the following issues related to changing the funding formula for special education.

 **Ensuring Quality:** Board members questioned whether implementation of the law could result in reducing the quality of services for all learners. In



## SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH SERVICES

### SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION SYSTEMS DEPEND ON EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS.

Hiring of a superintendent is the most important decision of a board. The VSBA is pleased to provide comprehensive superintendent search services to assist boards in this all-important endeavor.

The VSBA will work with a district to identify an experienced search consultant to guide the entire process. Throughout the process, the board sets criteria and retains control of key decisions, with the VSBA assuring that a healthy process is established and facilitated, and key details are completed in an effective and timely way.

### Contact

For more information contact Nicole Mace at [nmace@vtsba.org](mailto:nmace@vtsba.org) or 802-223-3580.

theory it makes sense, but if it results in fewer resources without changes in classroom practice it could reduce quality, particularly in high need districts.

○ **Resources for Small SU/SDs:** There was broad concern that the new block grant formula could disadvantage small rural districts and that large districts will be the “winners” under the new formula.

○ **Resources for High Poverty SU/SDs:** Similarly, there was a clear call for the formula to account for districts that have high poverty rates among their student population. Some groups suggested that the funding formula not be adopted until the weighting study is completed.

○ **Parity for Public & Independent Schools:** In regions where districts pay tuition to private independent schools, board members requested that both public and private schools be held to the same requirements and implementation timeline.

○ **Mental Health & Social Service Needs:** Board members shared concerns about the increasing mental health and social service needs of students. While the increased flexibility Act 173 provides is positive, districts should not at the end of the day have fewer resources to serve students with growing mental health needs.

○ **Professional Capacity and Support:** Members expressed concern that we may not have enough highly trained professionals to meet the recommendations of the DMG study, which may therefore further exacerbate inequities between districts. Members also raised questions about how the state would meet the professional development needs of non-special education teachers and administrators.

**Act 11 Student Staff Ratios Task Force:** Act 11 creates a task force charged with reviewing current staff-to-student count ratios for specific categories of schools and school district configurations, and establishing optimal target ratios for different school district configurations. VSBA has a seat on the ratios task force.

School board members had questions and concerns about the following issues related to the task force on student staff ratios.

○ **Defining Staff:** School board members request that staff be clearly defined so that all districts are reporting numbers in the same way. It is particularly important to clarify how to address services provided by contract to schools (food service, transportation, e.g.) versus schools that provide those services in-house.

○ **Accounting for Student Need:** Board members expressed concern that not all districts serve the same students. Some districts may need lower ratios in order to meet student need (districts with high numbers of ELL students, for example). Target ratios should be based on staff to equalized pupils and should not be developed until after the weighting study is complete.

○ **Outcomes Emphasis:** School board members want to ensure that the conversation does not prioritize financial savings over educational needs and student outcomes. Ratio targets should be informed by educational research and student need.

**Small Schools Impact:** Board members from smaller systems expressed concern that an emphasis on ratios could further exacerbate pressures on small schools to combine classes and grades or close altogether.

**Act 11 Commission on School Employee Health Benefits:** The VSBA is charged with appointing and supporting five members to the commission charged with negotiating school employee health benefits on behalf of all school districts in the state.

School board members had questions and concerns about the following issues related to school employee health benefits.

**Cost:** Board members urged their representatives to be aware of the financial impacts on school district budgets. Employees will seek increases in compensation to offset increases in health care costs. Consider the actuarial impacts of any deal as health plan rate increases have been too high recently.

**Equity:** Board members want the benefit to be fair and equitable for school employees and for districts as well. Act 11 Commissioners need to consider the different economic circumstances in different regions of the state, including differences in health care benefits available to taxpayers who are not school employees.

**Simplicity & Predictability:** There should be simplicity in the design of the benefit so that it is easy to implement at the local level. There also needs to be ease of use and predictability of cost for all parties. 🚌

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM RELIES ON A STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE SUPERINTENDENT.

### Superintendent Evaluation Services

An effective evaluation provides the board and superintendent with data to measure performance and inform decisions. It enables both the board and the superintendent to continually improve their efforts.

### Why use the Vermont School Boards Association?

- The VSBA works with school boards and can customize an effective evaluation process.
- The VSBA understands the role of leadership, and has developed an evaluation process that helps boards and superintendents work together to achieve their vision.

### Contact

For more information contact Sue Ceglowski at [sceglowski@vtsba.org](mailto:sceglowski@vtsba.org) or 802-223-3580.

# Annual Conference Recap

By Susan Holson, VSBA Director of Education Services

VSBA and VSA jointly hosted our annual conference on October 18 and 19 at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee. The theme “All our Kids” focused most of the program on improving equity in education. One school board member summed up his experience: “I learned information that I



am immediately putting to use both in my work and as a school board member.”

“Keynotes were excellent and information was timely.”  
~School Board Member

## Keynotes

Caroline Hill, a self-described “catalyst and architect for equity,” kicked off Thursday’s events with an impassioned reflection on reassessing the definition of “equity.” On Friday, Harvard Education Redesign Lab’s Paul Reville shared data related to the monumental task of educating all kids. Both shared their insight that in order to be successful, we must redefine our educational systems, making them more student-centered, integrating education with health and social services, and

providing equal access to expanded learning opportunities.

## Workshops

“From Thursday’s keynote address to the workshops I attended, I learned a lot of new information. Each session really gave me some new ideas and perspectives.”  
~School Board Member

Thursday’s workshops extended the theme of “All our Kids” in multiple ways, including diversity in the workforce; successful community engagement; designing for equity; whole school restorative justice practices; and improving integration with postsecondary education. Each was impactful as attendees participated in engaging on the topic of their choice.

Other workshops, designed to expand understanding of other relevant issues included discussion of school-based councils; employee wellness; school safety; and Policy Governance. Overall, workshops were well-received, and participants were enthusiastic about the content and delivery.

## Panels

Without a doubt, one of the standout sessions of the whole conference was a panel of students discussing their firsthand experiences with prejudice and oppression. Panelists included 3 members from the Gay/Straight

“The student panel was amazing! I love that we experience student voice at our conferences!”  
~Superintendent



Alliance from North Country Union High School in the North Country Supervisory Union and 2 students from BLAMM (Black, Latinos, and Much More) at U-32 Middle and High School in Washington Central Supervisory Union. The latter is the group that is responsible for raising the Black Lives Matter flag at their school. The students were articulate and insightful and answered all questions asked by moderator Superintendent Dave Younce skillfully and thoughtfully.

Friday's panel collected educational leaders from different districts to share their promising practices in designing for equity. Representatives from Maple Run explained how unification under Act 46 has led to greater equity for students. The audience also heard from Southwest Vermont SU and Central Vermont Career Center representatives on some of their progress in implementing student-centered learning (Act 77). Finally, members of the Central Vermont SU and Champlain Valley SU leadership shared some strides in supporting struggling learners with new instructional practices, addressing some of the scope of the newly-passed Act 173.

### Other

Other highlights of the two days included a brief address by Secretary of Education Dan French and a screening of a Bess O'Brien film commissioned by the VT-NEA. "I'm From Here" is an eye-opening 30-minute documentary on racism in

Vermont and its education system. Considered another highlight of the conference, the film captured interviews with students, teachers, principals, and superintendents who have experienced or observed racism in the schools. If you have an opportunity, see the film.

### VSBA Annual Meeting

“We got our work done without rushing through anything and had time to breathe before dinner.”  
~School Board Member”

The association's annual business meeting was conducted on Thursday afternoon, October 18. Delegates from 29 of the 56 member supervisory unions/supervisory districts attended to hear from outgoing VSBA President Geo Honigford and Executive Director Nicole Mace and to vote on proposed bylaws changes, budget, and the 19 resolutions received by member districts over the summer. Thanks to the overall decorum and respect for the discussion ground rules, members overcame some technology obstacles and took swift action on all business matters, approving the financial reports, proposed bylaws changes, and agreeing with the board's recommendations on all resolutions.

After such a successful program, we're already planning for the 2019 Annual Conference! 🚌



# YOUR ACT 11

## BARGAINING COMMISSION MEMBERS



At the October business meeting, VSBA members approved a process for appointing members to represent school districts to the Act 11 Commission on School Employee Health Benefits. The members approved the following requirements for appointing representatives to the Commission:

**Statutory Requirements:** each appointee shall have (1) an understanding of health care, (2) an understanding of employer-employee relations, and (3) a demonstrated willingness to work collaboratively. The term of each member of the Commission shall be six years provided that of the members first appointed by the VSBA, one appointee shall serve a term of two years and one appointee shall serve a term of four years.

**Criteria for Selection:** in selecting appointees, the Vermont School Boards Association shall give priority to applicants who provide regional representation, have experience on a negotiations council and demonstrate willingness to participate in training and professional development regarding negotiations.

**Application Process:** Vermont School Boards Association shall accept applications for appointment to the Commission via an online form. The deadline for submission of applications shall be November 1.

**Selection Process:** The Vermont School Boards Association Board of Directors shall appoint representatives to the Commission based on the above statutory requirements and criteria at its November board meeting.

The VSBA received 16 applications from school board members interested in serving on the Commission. On November 13, the VSBA board appointed the following individuals to serve:

## Elizabeth Fitzgerald

*South Burlington School District*



Elizabeth has served on the South Burlington School Board for thirteen years, and is currently as chair of the board. She has served on the negotiations team in a leadership role through numerous collective bargaining agreements with teachers, support staff, administration and the superintendent. During her tenure, the South Burlington school board made several innovative healthcare proposals, most of which would have reduced taxpayer and employee costs. Elizabeth has also served on the VEHI Board of Directors for over four years and has a solid understanding of the health insurance plans offered to school employees along with how those are plans are financed.

## Susan Hamlyn Prescott

*Lamoille North MUUSD*



Susan has served on the Cambridge School Board since 1995 and the Lamoille North Supervisory Union Board since 2002. She has served as a member of the Board Negotiating Council (BNC) for many years and as BNC Board Chair for three bargaining cycles, one of which included successfully merging several contracts into one district-wide agreement.

## Patrick Healy

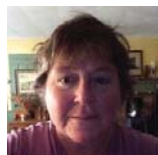
*Twinfield Union School District, Washington Northeast SU*



As the director of a quasi-municipal corporation (Green Mount Cemetery) for the past 30 years, Patrick understands the relationship between employer and employee. Patrick is presently the chair of the Twinfield School Board; he has negotiated four contracts on behalf of the school district.

## Adrienne Raymond

*Mill River UUSD*



Adrienne started on her local town school board in Shrewsbury, VT, in 2002 and has served on multiple boards; she is currently serving on the Mill River Unified Union Board. Adrienne is Shrewsbury's Zoning Administrator and Lister, a Guardian ad Litem in the Rutland Family Court and has recently been elected as a Justice of the Peace. Adrienne has negotiated more than five contracts in her tenure as a school board member. The balance of providing a reasonable health insurance benefit at a reasonable cost has been the focus of the Mill River school district for many years.

## Ed Caron

*Springfield School District*



Ed resides in Springfield with his wife and has been a resident since 2005. He has served on the Springfield School District Board since 2014, serving as board chair for the past three years. He has been an Enrolled Agent since 1985, a member of the National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP) and on the board of the VT NATP. Ed has also served as treasurer of the Chester, VT Rotary Club and President of the Club 2016-2017. Ed has negotiated four contracts on behalf of the Springfield School District.

These five Commissioners representing Vermont's school boards will be meeting later this month to elect a chair and develop a plan for the upcoming negotiation. In the meantime, if you have questions or information you would like to share with the Commissioners, please send them to Nicole Mace at [nmace@vtsba.org](mailto:nmace@vtsba.org). 🚌

# South Burlington School District Prevails



Vermont Supreme Court decides school district was not required to put petition to district-wide vote

*Sue Ceglowski, VSBA Director of Legal and Policy Services*

The Vermont Supreme Court issued a decision in *Skiff et al. v. South Burlington School District* on October 26 concluding that the school district was not required to put a petition regarding the name of the district's sports teams to a district-wide vote.

This case arose from the South Burlington School Board's February 1, 2017 decision to retire "the Rebels" as the nickname of the school district athletic teams. The school board members voted unanimously to change the name because it was interfering with all students' ability to feel safe and included in the South Burlington schools. High school administrators had explained to the board that the nickname, which could be associated with the Confederacy, was dividing the school.


Upset with the name change, plaintiffs submitted a petition signed by five percent of the South Burlington voters which included the following proposed article to be submitted to the voters: "Should the name of all South Burlington School District sports teams be the 'South Burlington Rebels' and should the South Burlington City Council and South Burlington School Board be required to make official, retain, and maintain this name for all South Burlington School District sports teams?"

The school board declined to submit the proposed article to the voters. Plaintiffs brought suit, alleging that the school district violated their right to petition under

Vermont statutes and Chapter I, Article 20 of the Vermont Constitution by declining to place the article concerning the Rebel name change before the voters.

The school board filed a motion to dismiss in the trial court which the court denied, relying on Article 20 of the Vermont Constitution (which sets forth the rights of the people to assemble and to instruct their representatives). The school board appealed this denial to the Vermont Supreme Court.

VSBA filed an amicus curiae brief with the Vermont Supreme Court because the outcome of the case directly affects Vermont school boards. Rich Cassidy Law represented the VSBA in the appeal on a pro bono basis, allowing the VSBA to provide important input to the Vermont Supreme Court at no cost to our association.

The Vermont Supreme Court held that the South Burlington School District did not have a legal duty to include the petitioned article in a district-wide vote. Because the article involved non-binding, advisory questions outside of the electorate's authority, Vermont statutes did not require the district to present the article to the voters. Further, the court concluded that the "right to instruct" in Article 20 of the Vermont Constitution is an individual right and did not require the district to present a petitioned advisory article to voters. The court stated "The recourse for voters is not through petition, but election." 

# Vermont School Boards U LIVE

**Everything you  
always wanted to  
know about  
serving on your  
school board**

*(but were afraid to ask)*

*Susan Holson, VSBA Director of Education Services*

We all know that being on a school board can be challenging and complex. Demands on board members include a comprehensive understanding of governance and its associated roles and responsibilities; education policy and the process to influence it; writing, monitoring and utilizing policy; fiscal oversight and budgeting; collective bargaining and negotiations; and developing and maintaining open communications channels on the board and with community members.

VSBA has traditionally offered its Essential Work of Vermont School Boards training in numerous locations around the state each spring. The feedback we've gotten from board members who have attended in recent years is that it doesn't go far enough. A 3-hour workshop may seem like a lot, but it's only enough time to scratch the surface. And, board members who attend often regret that their whole board didn't do the training together. Finally, with our usual schedule of mid-March to mid-April, we've discovered that newly-elected board members haven't had enough experience to know what questions to ask.

## **We're doing something new this spring!**

On June 1, 2019 we'll be hosting a full-day workshop to make sure new board members get all the support they need as they begin their terms. And, since we'll be doing a deep dive into many aspects of school board work, School Board U Live will also provide an impactful refresher for veteran board members.

The \$50 fee (billed to your supervisory union) includes all program materials including an updated *Essential Work of Vermont School Boards* workbook.

School Board U Live will introduce basic information on all aspects of a day in the life of a school board member. Presentations from VSBA and external experts will cover the critical other components of board work including:

- **Roles and Responsibilities;**
- **Navigating the jargon;**
- **Policy;**
- **Advocacy and legislative issues;**
- **Fiscal responsibilities;**
- **State Education Funding;**
- **Collective bargaining and negotiations;**
- **Community engagement**

Of course, VSBA is committed to supporting school boards maximize effectiveness. So, we're still offering Essential Work of School Boards program for all our members. We'll travel to you and engage your entire board on issues of roles, responsibilities, and best practices. This service is included in your membership dues. Contact Susan Holson, Director of Education Services at 800-244-8722 or [sholson@vtvsba.org](mailto:sholson@vtvsba.org) to schedule your board's Essential Work of School Boards or to discuss your specific, customized professional development needs. 🚌

Are you having problems finding time for school board professional development? How about participating from the comforts of your home, office or (ahem) snow shoes?

Our webinars are free and all registrants receive a follow-up email after the webinar with a link to the handouts, answers to questions, and a video of the webinar (regardless of attendance). Learn more about our upcoming webinars at [www.vtvsba.org/webinars](http://www.vtvsba.org/webinars) to register for a live event. They're conveniently scheduled on the first Thursday of each month from 6 – 7 p.m.

### February 7: Transitions in Governance

Has your district recently merged? Or are you in the midst of consolidation? Join Susan in a discussion of some of the issues that newly-merged and merging boards are encountering and guidance on managing the process.

### March 7: Board Chair 101 Effective & Ethical Operations

Whether you're a current board chair, an aspiring chair for your newly organizing board, or a board member who is about to vote on your chair for the next year, it's critical to understand the importance and complexity of this crucial role on the board.

Visit [www.vtvsba.org/webinars](http://www.vtvsba.org/webinars) for information on these programs and future offerings. In addition, you can view all archived webinars under the "Resources" tab of the website. 🚌

## VERMONT SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Great Governance, Excellent Education, Strong Communities



### MISSION

The VSBA exists to achieve Vermont's vision for public education by supporting all school boards to serve as effective trustees for education on behalf of their communities and by providing a strong collective voice toward enhancing the cause of public education in Vermont.



### VISION

The VSBA envisions a state where every student has access to and is engaged in a world-class public education, where local boards provide student-focused oversight of education systems, and where educators, families, and communities are engaged partners, ensuring that the futures of all Vermont children are driven by their aspirations, not bound by their circumstances.



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