

The Windham Southeast School District recognizes the importance of using facts and valid research to guide our decisions and actions. We recognize the deleterious effects limited opportunity due to poverty, language, and restricted ability has on student performance. We call on the legislature to take immediate action to implement the findings of the student weighting research.

We are fully prepared to explain to our residents the necessary changes in student weighting identified in the recent legislative report. We see no reason to delay or perform further study before providing the level of support this research indicates is needed to help these marginalized students.

Vermont schools have seen little improvement in the performance of these students compared to peers with greater opportunities since we began measuring the gap in 2001. Now the legislature is being advised to "go slow" and "be thoughtful," despite the clear data they have been presented. They are being advised to tell marginalized families they will just have to wait.

We call on the legislature to take immediate action to implement the findings of the student weighting research.

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