

To: House Appropriations Committee
From: House Educations Committee
Re: Budget Adjustment Act

The House Education Committee supports the proposal by the Agency of Education to use \$3.5 million of its ESSER II administrative fee in order to retrofit and allow use of the former Macy's building as the temporary home for the Burlington High School. The House Education Committee applauds the use of the money as direct aid to schools rather than for AOE administrative costs.

The Committee looks forward to future proposals from the AOE to use this federal funding for other forms of direct aid. In particular, the House Committee on Education would support the AOE continuing its attention to school building needs with this ESSER II money by funding a study and inventory of school needs across Vermont. Such a move would demonstrate that the AOE's concern is well-beyond the immediate and unique needs in Burlington.

In the 2020 legislative session, a bill calling for such a study and inventory of school facilities passed out of the House Education and Ways and Means Committee in H.209. H.209 died in the Appropriations Committee as the State refocused attention to CARES Act appropriations and legislation focused on the pandemic.

This topic is on the agenda in the House Education Committee on Thursday, January 29th.