



VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

SERVING EDUCATION THROUGH SOUND BUSINESS PRACTICE

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TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Michelle Baker, VASBO President-Elect & Director of Finance,
Harwood Unified Union School District
SUBJECT: VASBO Position on S.115
DATE: May 10, 2021

The Vermont Association of School Business Officials (VASBO) appreciates the opportunity to provide input in the consideration of S.115, specifically on the provisions related to the shard school district data management system.

VASBO's position on S.115 and related legislation is described below. We surveyed VASBO membership in February and this position received overwhelming support from our membership.

VASBO supports a pause in the process of expanding eFinance to new users.

Pausing the expansion of eFinance to new school members, as suggested by AOE CFO Bill Bates, is the best way to allow the agency to fully review the project status and develop a path forward that will ensure success – even if the pause results in redefining what success means for this project. The statement was supported by nearly 95% of respondents.

VASBO believes AOE should continue to provide full support to existing eFinance users.

VASBO members were unanimous in their view that support should be maintained for current eFinance users, even in the event of a project pause. Current users of eFinance rely on the program for all accounting and payroll processes.

VASBO supports the implementation of a Uniform Chart of Accounts but believes that utilization of eFinance should be voluntary.

More than three quarters of VASBO survey respondents agreed with this statement. Until such time as eFinance is shown to provide satisfactory performance for current users, the process of enrolling new users should remain voluntary.

S.115 supports the first two VASBO positions. We continue to advocate for an opt in option, versus making eFinance mandatory. Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in on S.115.