



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SEN. BRIAN CAMPION, CHAIR
SEN. CHERYL HOOKER, VICE CHAIR
SEN. THOMAS CHITTENDEN
SEN. VIRGINIA "GINNY" LYONS
SEN. ANDREW PERCHLIK
SEN. JOSHUA TEREZINI

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Appropriations
From: Sen. Campion
Date: February 16, 2021
Subject: Appropriations requested in the next round of appropriations

I am writing on behalf of the Senate Committee on Education to request the following:

Support students and families so they have a safe, restorative summer, and one that assists students in transitioning back to school and addresses possible academic deficits

1. Direct \$500,000.00 to support a collaboration between the Agency of Education and the Department of Health to educate parents on the signs of depression and suicide and to provide information and resources for assistance.
2. Direct \$500,000.00 to the Agency of Education and the Department of Health to make certain that children and families have access to nutritious foods throughout the summer.
3. Direct the Agency of Education to instruct districts and supervisory unions to address the needs of students who have been truant during the pandemic and begin to recreate a supportive school culture.
4. Direct \$500,000.00 for universal afterschool grants to provide grants for children to attend summer and afterschool programs.
5. Address the shortage of teachers and mental health professionals by streamlining their licensure process and bringing retired teachers back into classrooms.

Improve access to higher education

Expand the McClure Foundation's successful work last year with an investment of \$1 million to provide a free class this summer or fall at any of the Vermont State Colleges for high school seniors and any Vermont resident who is seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance their work or academic skills.

Improve literacy

The SBAC test is taken every year by Vermont students in grades three through eight. Only 50 percent of third graders were deemed proficient in the 2019 ELA SBAC,

which measures student abilities in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research and inquiry. This proficiency percentage is between 50 and 57 percent for the remaining grades. We request an appropriation of \$500,000.00 for the Agency of Education to distribute funds to school districts and supervisory unions for literacy training for teachers.