



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Finance
From: Senate Committee on Education
Date: February 18, 2022
Subject: English Language Learner (ELL) Recommendation

Our Committee has deliberated over the last several weeks to frame its ELL recommendation and has taken input from members of the Task Force on the Implementation of the Pupil Weighting Factors Report, among others. Our ELL recommendation is to:

- use a 2.49 pupil weight for all ELL students in all school districts;
- provide mini-grants (\$25,000.00-\$50,000.00 range) to school districts with 25 or fewer ELL students, in addition to the weight, to ensure that they have sufficient resources to hire at least a part-time ELL teacher; and
- add 2.0 FTE positions at the Agency of Education to provide school districts with ELL program requirements, support, and guidance and to ensure that all school districts are operating high-quality ELL programs.

We believe that this recommendation would:

- provide school districts with large numbers of ELL students with increased resources/tax capacity and funding flexibility through the full ELL weight;
- ensure that school districts with very few ELL students would still be able to fund strong ELL programs;
- enable guidance and accountability measures to ensure all school districts are adequately funding and maintaining strong ELL programs; and
- bolster the Agency of Education's capacity to support school districts with ELL programs of various sizes.

Our recommendation represents a comprehensive and wholistic approach designed to ensure that ELL students and their families are successfully integrated into their schools and communities. Their successful integration is critical not only to them but also to all students and community members who benefit from the diversity they bring to their schools and communities.

Thank you for considering our recommendation; we would be pleased to discuss it with you and to provide you with related policy language if requested.