



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 Finance
From: Senate Committee on Education
Date: February 15, 2022
Subject: English Language Learner (ELL) Recommendation

We are writing to make the following ELL recommendation for your consideration:

- use a 2.49 pupil weight for all ELL students in all school districts;
- provide mini-grants (\$25,000-\$50,000 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;
- add 2.0 FTE positions at the Agency of Education to provide school districts with ELL program support and guidance; and
- provide guidelines, support, and basic program requirements for ELL programs to ensure that all school districts are operating high quality programs for ELL students.

We believe that this recommendation would:

- provide school districts with large numbers of ELL students, like those in Chittenden County, with increased resources/tax capacity and funding flexibility through the full ELL weight;
- ensure that school districts with very few eligible 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 varying size ELL programs.

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