

**Dr. Rob Schulze**  
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To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Dr. Rob Schulze. I am an associate professor of education, specializing in special education, at Vermont State University. I am based on the Johnson campus, though I teach students at all VTSU locations. I personally live in the town of Lake Elmore in Lamoille County.

I am writing to ask that you please fund the full promise to Vermont State University (VTSU) of \$10 million for deficit reduction and bridge funding.

Vermont is suffering a serious teacher shortage, specifically within my field of special education. Unlike the other institutions of higher education in the state, VTSU educates predominantly Vermonters who stay and work in Vermont after graduation. The teachers I and my colleagues train are the ones who will be in the classrooms with students all over Vermont for decades. VTSU's role in the teacher pipeline is crucial, and can only be accomplished successfully if the university is funded at a rate to make it attractive, cost-effective, and inspiring to students.

Again, please fund the full promise to Vermont State University (VTSU) of \$10 million for deficit reduction and bridge funding. It is an investment in the future of the state and its children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Schulze