

Who We Are & What We Do



VSBA's Organizational DNA

- VSBA is a non-profit, membership organization that supports school boards in fulfilling their duties, promoting public education, and providing a collective voice for strong education policy in Vermont.
- VSBA is committed to equity of opportunity and a strong, sustainable public education system.

VSBA Mission

Develop and provide systems and resources that support school boards and their members, informed through inclusive community engagement.

VSBA Vision

The VSBA is the trusted leadership organization advancing the essential work of Vermont school boards so that each and every student is supported in their educational journey.

Beliefs

- Public education is a fundamental right and is the foundation for democracy, is the core of strong communities, and drives economic development.
- School boards and their communities need to understand the jobs, roles, and responsibilities of school boards and their members; and boards need to have professional development to be effective and efficient in their roles.
- In Vermont, every student must have equitable access to a world class public education, driven by their aspirations to success, through empowered school boards.
- The VSBA is the glue that holds together local school boards.



About Our Members



- Over 850 elected school board members, collectively dedicating 150,000 hours each year in pursuit of equitable, excellent, and cost-effective education for all Vermont students.
- Strive to continuously learn and develop through VSBA's annual conference, regional meetings, webinars, and customized board development.
- Oversee the education of more than 80,000 children in Vermont's public schools through their essential work.
- Partner with students, parents, educators, and community members to support the community vision for Vermont public schools.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Schoolboards

- Establish a Vision & Engage the Community
- Establish Policy
- Build Board and Superintendent Partnerships
- Operate Effectively and Ethically
- Monitor Progress and Performance
- Develop the Budget and Oversee Budget Finances



2026 Legislative Platform

ADOPTED BY THE VSBA MEMBERSHIP

Legislative Priorities for 2026

Reform the Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits

Revise the structure and function of the Commission in order to bend the cost of health care benefits. Expand beyond boards and unions to create an actual commission looking for solutions rather than two negotiating parties arguing a position. Cap total value of health benefits. Establish a single, statewide HRA administrator. Expand arbitration criteria to include comparables and economic impact. Allow for blended arbitration awards.

Stabilize Education Costs and Taxes

Address major cost drivers – including health benefits, facilities, and unfunded mandates – by revising statewide bargaining for school employees' health benefits, funding existing legal requirements, and requiring that any education transformations be data-driven and demonstrate verifiable, long-term financial savings for districts and taxpayers.

Ensure Fair, Transparent Education Funding

Review the purpose and intent of the Education Fund in light of how it is currently used and ensure funding formulas support equitable access to a high-quality education for all Vermont students.

Strengthen Student Mental Health Supports

Fully fund school-based mental health services and youth support programs to meet growing student needs and reduce downstream educational and social costs.

Maintain and Modernize School Facilities

Provide adequate, predictable funding for school construction, renovation, capital expenses, and environmental remediation – including PCB mitigation – to ensure safe and functional learning environments.

Promote Accountability for Public Dollars

Require private schools and publicly funded Pre-K programs to meet clear standards for quality, equity, efficiency, accountability, and transparency.

Support Community-Based Education

Recognize the educational, cultural, and economic value of local elementary schools and ensure policy decisions reflect their role in sustaining Vermont communities.