



Who We Are

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 ties together local school boards.

About Our Members

- Green Piece:** Over 850 elected school board members, collectively dedicating 150,000 hours each year in pursuit of equitable, excellent, & cost-effective education for all Vermont students.
- Blue Piece:** Oversee the education of more than 80,000 children in Vermont's public schools through their essential work.
- Dark Blue Piece:** Strive to continuously learn & develop through the VSBA annual conference, regional meetings, webinars, and customized board development.
- Orange Piece:** Partner with students, parents, educators, and community members to support the community vision for 293 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

2025 Legislative Platform

ADOPTED BY THE VSBA MEMBERSHIP

How We Make Decisions

The VSBA utilizes a resolutions process to identify and take action on issues of importance to its members. These issues come from member school boards. Resolutions allow the organization to develop its legislative platform and provide a framework for its work with partner organizations and agencies on issues of common importance.

VSBA Priorities for 2025

Education Funding Priorities:

- Focus on students by **providing sufficient funds** to support equitable, high-quality education in Vermont's school systems.
- **Ensure predictability** in the school district budget process.
- Give **enough time** for school districts to adjust to any changes.
- Provide **data and modeling** to show the impact on districts over time.
- Strengthen **accountability** for the use of public dollars.
- Include measures to address the below **cost drivers**.

Education Cost Drivers Priorities:

- **Health Benefits:** Revise the statewide bargaining process for school employees' healthcare. Benefits should reflect the coverage of most Vermonters.
- **Facilities:** Provide predictable and stable state school construction aid for capital expenses.
- **Mental Health:** Support youth mental health by adequately funding mental health services and programs.
- **Education Fund:** Clarify limitations on the use and purpose of the Education Fund.
- **Existing legislation:** Adequately fund existing laws and regulations.

Core Priorities

- Improve the capacity of the Agency of Education to meet its statutory responsibilities.
- Require the Agency of Education to expand and maintain a comprehensive data dashboard (supports school boards' ability to make decisions for their students and communities).
- Restructure the State Board of Education.
- Require public tuition to private schools to comply with the Vermont Constitution's Compelled Support Clause.
- Ensure accountability for public dollars by requiring private schools and Pre-K programs receiving public tuition to comply with requirements for quality, equity, efficiency, and transparency.