

Vermont Principals' Association
Supporting Leaders & Learners

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Vermont Principals' Association

The Vermont Principals' Association supports school leaders to improve the equity and quality of educational opportunities for all students

2025 Legislative Priorities

Main Priority: Protect Public Education and ALL Vermont Children

Equitable Funding Changes

- Advocacy at Commission, General Assembly, Administration levels
- Be careful of unintended consequences of any funding changes
- Support nuanced, data-based approaches to funding changes
- Provide transition dollars to school districts that may be immediately hit by funding changes in a manner that negatively impacts students
- SAME DOLLARS/SAME RULE for any changes to education funding for any school or private entity receiving education fund dollars
- No New Cost Legislation without a corresponding funding source
- Address cost-drivers that local districts do not control, e.g.
 - Out of control health care costs
 - Money being spent from Ed. Fund that should be coming from General Fund or other sources; (early childhood monies for private providers who are not licensed teachers, funds to private schools that don't follow the same rules as public schools etc.)

State Education Governance Construct

- A solution to the Carson V. Makin case vs. Vermont's Constitutional Separation of Church and State Provision
- Moving from an Agency to a Department of Education
 - An AOE that answers to a restructured State Board that has a more accurate representation of Vermont students (96% of students in K-12 attend public

schools)

○ The current construct makes the AOE simply an agency completely under the direction of the Governor and creates more opportunities for partisanship and politics, (e.g. lack of AOE support for PreK in public schools and/or with licensed teachers despite research clearly demonstrating the impact of licensed teachers)

- State Board Composition

- Governor/Senate/House all given appointees
- Appointees must be represented of Vermont student population
- Specific roles spelled out for composition (e.g. a retired principal recommended by the VPA)

- SAME DOLLARS/SAME RULES

- State Board rules need to be the same for students attending public and private schools that receive public funds. Truly “Independent Schools” (those that receive no public funding could have a different set of rules)

PreKindergarten

- Support for full ADM for full school day, school week, school year programs for school districts that want to do that
- No education funds used for programs that do not have licensed teachers (AOE Licensed Educators) providing instruction directly to students
- Continued movement toward full implementation of 4 year olds in the state as a prekindergarten or early kindergarten class

Vaping

- Support previously passed bills banning flavored tobacco products
- Our members deal with this every day and a new generation of students are getting hooked on these products

PCB's

- No funding/no testing
- States pay for all mitigation (and not out of Education Fund)

Reading Implementation/Act 139

- No changes/additions to language
- Let this law be implemented for a couple of years and then review
 - Provide professional learning opportunities and funding for training and curriculum options at the state level. Don't let this law become another unfunded mandate

Adult Basic Education

- Need a clear plan for the former diploma program and fiscal expectations between

schools and providers

Cell Phones

- Working with state officials to come up with a common sense bill
- Restricting most access from 8-3

*** Note: This document is based on Principal conversations and the VPA Executive Council will review and vote on Priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session on Jan 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Nichols,
Executive Director, Vermont Principals' Association