



April 10, 2026

Good Afternoon Senators:

Thank you for your time today to provide testimony on class size minimums. My name is Kasey Allen. I'm the Chair of the Craftsbury Town School Board. Craftsbury is located in southern Orleans County in the Northeast Kingdom. Craftsbury consists of two campuses - a PreK through 2nd grade campus and a 3rd grade through 12th grade campus. The two campuses are about one mile apart.

Craftsbury Schools are in its 196th year providing education to students in Craftsbury and surrounding towns. The 2029-2030 school year will mark Craftsbury's 200th year - a remarkable achievement for any school.

Craftsbury Schools' total enrollment this year is 201. This is approximately 10% higher than our average enrollment over the last 22 years (the number of years we have readily available enrollment data for).

With statewide enrollment declining significantly over the last 20 years, stable enrollment is a notable indicator of the overall health of Craftsbury Schools. Looking at grade groups, enrollment in the elementary and middle school grades is well above average, with high school enrollment lower but continuing a rebound from a recent low point, caused in part by fewer births in Craftsbury from 2007-2010. It will be great to have increasing high school enrollment in the coming years.

Other enrollment-related indicators related to the overall health of Craftsbury Schools is the high interest in attending Craftsbury Schools from surrounding districts.

- A neighboring elementary school tuitions students for grades 7 and up. Students have several middle and high schools to choose from. Craftsbury is the second most popular choice for these students with about 20% of students attending Craftsbury.
- Craftsbury has an agreement with another neighboring elementary school district that allows a 1:1 student swap. 12 students from that neighboring elementary school district want to attend Craftsbury and 0 Craftsbury students want to go the other way. Unfortunately, there is not much swapping happening because of this imbalance but it is an indicator of the health of Craftsbury Schools that we are so attractive to neighboring communities.
- Craftsbury has a similar agreement with a neighboring middle/high school. We have a similar situation with 4 students wanting to attend Craftsbury and 0 Craftsbury students wanting to go out.

To sum it up, Craftsbury’s enrollment is relatively small and always has been. Craftsbury is a strong school, indicated by the strong interest from students in neighboring towns to attend Craftsbury. Craftsbury is attractive because of the academic outcomes which are higher than surrounding districts and higher than the state average in all grades but two<sup>1</sup>. These high academic achievements are accomplished while the number of Craftsbury students receiving free and reduced lunches is higher than the state average.

Because Craftsbury’s enrollment is stable, even growing, we are efficiently using our square footage with little space going unused.

While enrollment is currently stable, relative to recent averages, it has troughs and peaks at Craftsbury which will create challenges meeting minimum class sizes some years. Table 1 shows Craftsbury class sizes in relation to Act 73 class size minimums.

Table 1. Craftsbury Class Size Relative to Act 73 Class Size Minimums

Grade(s)	Act 73 Class Size Minimum	Craftsbury Current Enrollment	Craftsbury Historical Enrollment
1	10	15	12
2-5	12	14-21	12
6-8	15	17-20	15
9-12*	18	8-16	16

\*Grade level enrollment, not class size

Turning to H.931 Miscellaneous Changes in Education Law, I recommend a delay, if not removal, of class size minimums for the following reasons:

- Data from Agency of Education<sup>2</sup> representing where schools stand relative to class size minimums shows most high schools will have trouble meeting the minimum class size, indicating that the minimums were not developed to be achievable in the near term without significant changes to where students are educated and how. This would be disruptive to Craftsbury schools, and other schools across Vermont, with stable enrollment and strong academic outcomes.
- Class size minimums aren't by themselves going to result in any reduction in expenses at Craftsbury and will cause chaos and confusion among students and faculty. Craftsbury operates a very efficient high school, employing four high school faculty – one in each of the four core subject areas. These four faculty offer a broad range of classes, including numerous APs and specialized electives giving our students a broad foundation to learn and excel in. Because of this, Craftsbury is able to provide strong opportunities with a very efficient staff body.

<sup>1</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aESmzZRwCjy3gJGsvHA-WvmeJ6UDPGqg> (Page 18-19)

<sup>2</sup> [https://education.vermont.gov/document/edu-sbe-class-size\\_act73\\_mins\\_july\\_25](https://education.vermont.gov/document/edu-sbe-class-size_act73_mins_july_25)

I recommend schools like Craftsbury instead focus on efforts that are more likely to result in cost savings, specifically shared services as are possible in regional cooperative educational service areas (CESAs).

I would also like to point out one of the most significant drivers of cost increases at Craftsbury over the past few years is special education. Declining enrollment in towns surrounding Craftsbury, that we currently share special education services with, is placing a greater financial burden on Craftsbury. Focusing on the CESA model is an important step toward addressing this critical concern.

As we approach our 200<sup>th</sup> year, Craftsbury is doing well, both in enrollment and academic outcomes, so why disrupt that with minimum class size requirements that will not provide guaranteed expense reductions?

Respectfully,  
Kasey Allen  
Craftsbury Town School District Chair