



Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee,

On behalf of the Vermont Association of School Business Officials (VASBO), I am writing to respectfully clarify a point referenced during testimony before your Committee on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

During that hearing, a presentation to VASBO membership by Jill Graham, Executive Director of the Vermont Learning Collaborative (VTLC) was referenced and it was suggested that there is significant interest among our membership in the CESA model.

VASBO would like to respectfully correct the record to ensure the Committee has an accurate understanding of our members' perspectives.

It is correct that Ms. Graham presented information on CESAs at a recent VASBO meeting. However, the discussion that followed among school business officials did not reflect broad support for the CESA construct as currently envisioned. While members engaged thoughtfully with the concept, the prevailing sentiment was one of questions and concerns rather than endorsement.

As an organization, VASBO has consistently supported governance structures that reduce complexity, promote transparency, and achieve operational efficiencies. In that context:

- VASBO generally does not support supervisory unions or mandatory CESA structures as mechanisms to reduce costs or complexity. Our members' experience and expertise suggests that adding additional layers of governance or administration may, in many cases, unnecessarily increase both costs and complexity.
- VASBO does support appropriately sized school districts between 2,000-4,000 students that result from meaningful district mergers, where scale can be achieved with clear accountability and streamlined operations.
- VASBO recognizes that regional collaboration can be valuable and would be open to CESAs as a voluntary model, particularly in areas of the state where access to services is limited and economies of scale are difficult to achieve.
- However, for districts that are already operating efficiently at scale, the addition of a CESA structure may not yield cost savings or improved opportunities, and could instead introduce unnecessary administrative complexity.

We appreciate VTLC's participation in the Committee's work and offer this clarification solely to ensure that VASBO's position is accurately represented as you consider policy decisions of significant importance to Vermont's education system.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to thoughtful, informed policymaking. We would welcome the opportunity to provide further input or answer any questions the Committee may have.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Jennings, President
Vermont Association of School Business Officials (VASBO)