

Committee Discussion Outline
March 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: SENATOR PERCHLIK
FROM: SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
DATE: APRIL __, 2026
RE: BUDGET PRIORITIES

As we have taken testimony from educators, nonprofits and governmental entities we have asked those requesting dollars to send us a specific request for our review, from which we would assemble our budget request letter.

We write today with an understanding that we do not have the knowledge of all the competing interest you must sift through vs. available dollars. We do know that money is tight, so we are simply letting you and the Appropriations Committee know that we think the following items are important and a good use of our state dollars.

Education Reform Transition

The Act 73 follow-up legislation we are working on contains three appropriations as follows:

1. \$2,750,000 from the education fund to the Agency of Education for the purpose of awarding study committee support grants as new Supervisory Unions take shape this summer (supervisory union transition facilitation grants).
2. \$50,000 from the education fund for study committee support grants.

3. \$600,000 from the education fund to the Agency of Education for district merger support grants.

Budget Priorities

Vermont State Colleges:

Request to Ed. Committee

Building Bright Futures:

Request to Ed. Committee =

Advance Vermont:

Request to Ed. Committee =

VSAC:

Requests to Ed. Committee

- \$27,897 base funding (3% increase)
- Authority to use up to \$400,000 from base finding for innovative career and college aspirations initiative
- \$84,000 (level-funding) for dual enrollment/early college stipend
- \$5,289,000 (\$2,000,000 increase) to support current demand for program
- \$1,500,000 for Vermont Mental Health Professional Loan Program
- \$2,300,000 (\$800,000 increase) for VSAC Freedom and Unity Scholarship

Governor's Institute:

Request to Ed. Committee

\$423,361 (10% more than Governor's recommend of \$384,874)

Farm to School and Early Childhood Program:

Request to Ed. Committee

\$500,000 (level funded)

Building Bright Futures

University of Vermont:

Requests to Ed. Committee

- 3% increase in base funding
- \$1,000,000 for five years for UVM Cancer Center
- \$15,000,000 to support construction of Multipurpose Center (venue for all Vermonters)

Agency of Education:

Requests to Ed. Committee

- \$2.73 billion across all AOE appropriation (consistent with governor's recommend. 3.91% increase).
- \$113,500,000 increase in statewide education spending, bringing total budget to \$2.104 billion
- \$10,000,000 in other ed fund increases, such as transportation, special ed, etc)

Note: Some of the organizations we supported for funding last year (Community Schools, Governor's Institute, State Board of Education, Child and Adult Food Program) did not appear in our committee this year with their budget requests. We therefore haven't included them in this request letter. That said, we likely continue to support their work and our silence should not be mistaken as diminished support.