

**Testimony To:** Brian Collamore, Senate Committee on Government Operations Chair  
**Respectfully Submitted by:** Gwen Carmolli, Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association  
Co-President & Advisory Council on Literacy Chair  
**Date:** April 11 2025  
**Topic:** Recommendations for S.119

On behalf of Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association (VTCLA), I would like to express support for building an endorsement process that prioritizes early literacy skills and maintains the current educational endorsement process under the Vermont Professional Educator Standards Board (VPESB). VTCLA supports a process that builds expertise in early literacy development and ensures educator quality in an aligned educational licensure system.

The early years of childhood development are critically important in literacy development. Children develop language and literacy skills in these early years that have an impact on their academic achievement. Having early childhood educator licensure reflecting expertise and training in language and early literacy development is crucial to students' long-term learning success.

The existing endorsement system includes well-defined criteria for a wide range of educational professionals. It recognizes and values the specialized expertise needed in each professional role, from early childhood educators to secondary content-area teachers. This ensures that all students, from early childhood education through grade 12, are supported by educators who meet rigorous standards informed by educational research and pedagogy.

A key strength of the VPESB's approach is its unified platform and consistent process for endorsements. This consistency helps us build a continuum of learning that spans early childhood learning through high school graduation and makes clear connections between early learning standards and state content standards, such as the Common Core State Standards. These connections are vital in the development of literacy, mathematics, and social-emotional development.

Knowing there are varied needs on the path to endorsement, the VPESB model offers alternate pathways to endorsement and a waiver process for emergency circumstances and provisional licensing. These alternate pathways toward licensure provide options while maintaining a consistent educational endorsement system.

Moving forward, it will be important to gather input from educational organizations and stakeholders whose work focuses on system-level coherence and consistency. Their perspectives are invaluable in understanding the endorsement process and educational system needs.

VTCLA recommends building early learning expertise into an early childhood endorsement and maintaining a consistent platform for educational licensing that connects learning from birth to college or career.

Thank you for your consideration.