



# Advisory Council on Literacy



September 24, 2021  
Virtual Meeting





WELCOME

The word "WELCOME" is displayed using seven individual paper scraps, each pinned with a pushpin. The scraps are arranged horizontally and feature the following colors and characters: an orange scrap with a white 'W', a white scrap with an orange 'e', a light blue scrap with a blue 'L', a white scrap with a black 'C', a teal scrap with a green 'O', a light blue scrap with a black 'm', and an orange scrap with a white 'e'. The pushpins are in various colors: white, orange, blue, black, green, white, and white.

# Welcome!

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The goal of this Advisory Council on Literacy is to **advise** the Agency of Education, State Board of Education, and the General Council, in order **to improve & sustain literacy outcomes for Vermont students, preK-12.**

*Share 1 thing you envision students successfully doing, based on this council's work*

# Agenda

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- ❖ Call to order/Welcome/Note Taker
- ❖ Review and approve minutes from 8/31/20
- ❖ Hear public comment
- ❖ Hear & discuss overview of Act 28
- ❖ Hear & discuss presentation on statewide literacy outcomes
- ❖ Develop work plan
- ❖ Adjourn

# Minutes from August 30, 2021

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*Please review the minutes from the 8/30/21 meeting*

- *Are there any changes needed in the minutes?*
- *Is there a proposal to approve the minutes from 8/30/21?*

# Community Input

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*Please provide name and keep comments brief to allow for other public comments.*

*Thank you for your comments!*

# Act 28 Overview

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Bill passed by House and Senate in spring 2021

Aims to improve literacy outcomes for students preK-12

Provides funding for:

- Professional development on the 5 keys areas of literacy instruction: phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency & reading comprehension
- Support to SUs/SDs

Creates an Advisory Council on Literacy

[Summary](#)

[Bill](#)

[Statute 2903](#)

[Statute 2902](#)

[VT MTSS](#)

# Purpose

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- ❖ **Continue the work to improve literacy outcomes** - multi-year & multi-dimensional
- ❖ **Allocate ESSER funds to support the recovery efforts** of learning loss from the pandemic
- ❖ **Provide technical support to supervisory unions** on literacy recovery & improving literacy outcomes efforts



# Findings

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- ❖ **Addressing literacy is a key strategy** to improve literacy outcomes - DMG Report
- ❖ **Data indicates the need** to address literacy outcomes - SBAC, NAEP
- ❖ **COVID has adversely affected** academic & developmental progress
- ❖ **Improving literacy outcomes is a significant challenge** that requires time & assistance

[DMG Report](#)

[VT AOE - Education Performance](#)

[National Reading Panel Summary](#)

# Advisory Council on Literacy

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- ❖ 16 members, membership defined in the bill
- ❖ Meet not more than 8 times per year
- ❖ Defined goal & tasks
- ❖ Report findings annually to House & Senate Education Committees

Sandra Cameron, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA)  
Katie Campbell, St. Albans Town Educational Center  
Gwen Carmolli, Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association (VTCLA), Chair  
Bill Clark, Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE)  
Jennifer Farnsworth, Hiawatha Elementary School  
Daniel French, Vermont Agency of Education (AOE), Secretary of Education  
Cynthia Gardner-Morse, Calais  
Chris Kane, Vermont Agency of Education  
Susan Koch, Union School  
Emily Lesh, Richmond  
Darren McIntyre, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators (VCSEA)  
Mill Moore, Vermont Independent Schools Association (VISA)  
Chelsea Myers, Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA)  
Beth O'Brien, Vermont Principals Association (VPA), Vice Chair  
Julia Spaulding, Enosburg High School  
Donald Tinney, Vermont-National Education Association (VT-NEA)

# Discuss Act 28

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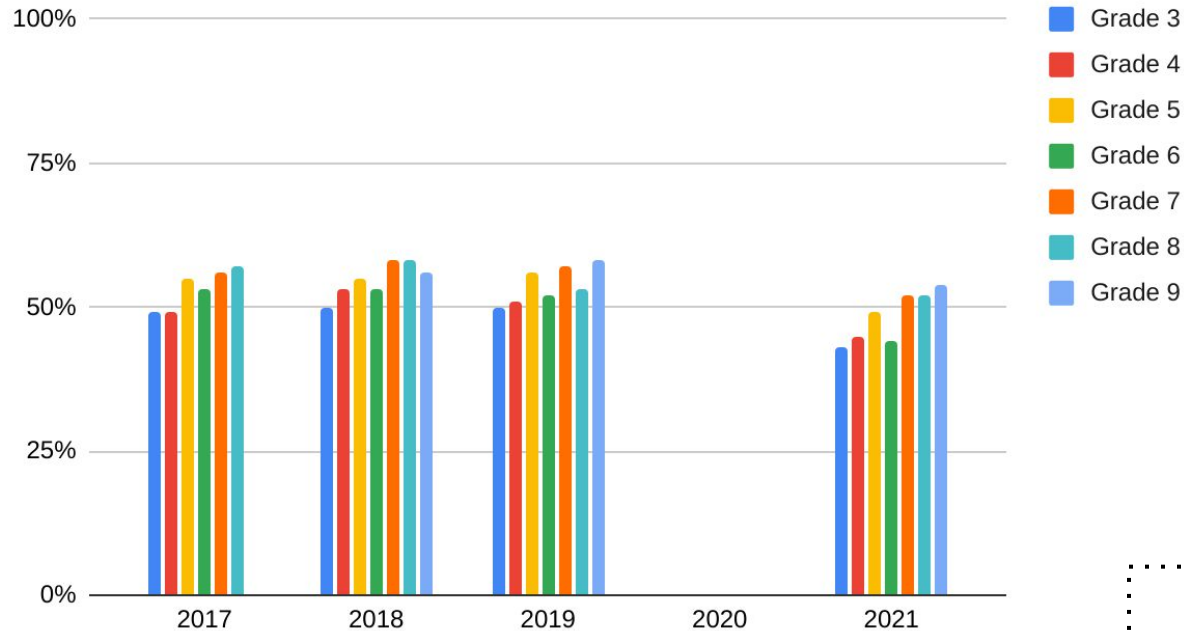
*Areas for consideration:*

- *Key phrases or words*
- *Findings*
- *Need*

# SBAC

Presentation  
of results  
in October

## VT SBAC Results 2017-2021



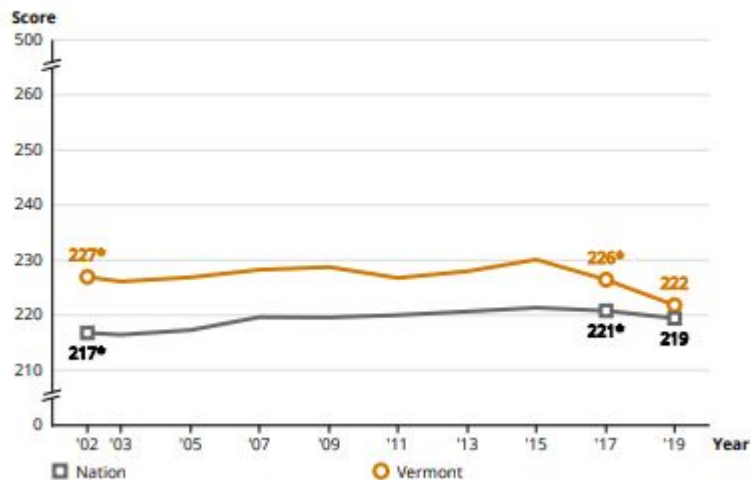
### SBAC Assesses:

- Listening
- Reading
- Research/Inquiry
- Writing
- Writing Dimensions

*Discuss results*

# NAEP 2019

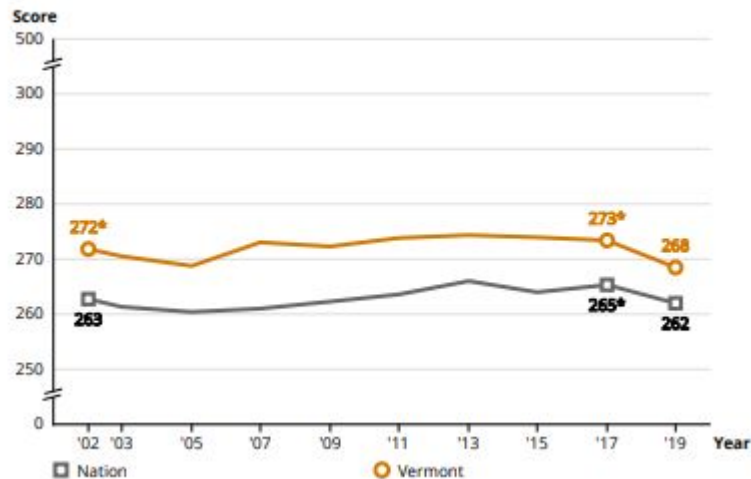
### Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation



## Grade 4 Reading

68% scored at or above basic level, down from 73% in 2017

### Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation



## Grade 8 Reading

77% scored at or above basic level, down from 82% in 2017

# Discuss Literacy Results

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*Based on a very cursory overview, discuss literacy results*

*Areas for consideration:*

- *Need*
- *PreK-12*
- *Trend over time*
- *Areas assessed - reading, writing, speaking and listening*

# Our Work

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*The Council shall advise the Agency of Education, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly on how to improve proficiency outcomes in literacy for students in prekindergarten through grade 12 and how to sustain those outcomes and shall:*

- ❖ **Advise the Agency of Education on the statewide literacy plan** - how to update [section 2903](#), implement & maintain the statewide literacy plan
- ❖ **Advise the Agency of Education on services to provide school districts** to support implementation of the statewide literacy plan - professional development, staffing and resources
- ❖ **Develop a plan for collecting literacy-related data** that informs instructional practices, professional development, and proficiencies to measure
- ❖ **Recommend best practices for Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 literacy instruction** within [MTSS, section 2902](#)
- ❖ **Review literacy assessments and outcomes**, and *provide ongoing advice to continuously improve those outcomes and sustain improvement*

# Proposed Work Plan

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Meet 8 times per year: August, September, October, November, January, March, April, May

Work on tasks in a sequence, based on the bill:

- Statute 2903 & state literacy plan
- Supports to SUs/SDs
- Data collection
- Best practices for MTSS

Hear & discuss literacy outcomes as data is available

Discuss & come to consensus on advice or recommendations

Develop & approve key points for report to General Assembly



# Consensus

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## consensus noun, often attributive

 Save Word

con-sen-sus | \ kən-ˈsen(t)-səs  \

### Definition of *consensus*

- a** : general agreement : UNANIMITY  
// the *consensus* of their opinion, based on reports ... from the border  
— John Hersey
- b** : the judgment arrived at by most of those concerned  
// the *consensus* was to go ahead
- 2** : group solidarity in sentiment and belief

Merriam-Webster

# Responsibilities

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**Full Group:** Hear presentations, develop and approve advice and recommendations for tasks outlined in Act 28, work collaboratively to improve and sustain literacy outcomes for students in prek- 12

**Individual:** Represent constituency group, work collaboratively with council members, share note-taking

**Chair:** Plan and facilitate meetings, prepare Advisory Council on Literacy reports

**Vice Chair:** Support Chair to plan and facilitate meetings, serve as Chair in the even the Chair is unable to attend

September 24, 2021 10:00-12:00 online meeting			
Time	Topic	Presenter/ Facilitator	Notes
5 minutes 10:00-10:05	Call to order/Welcome/ Notetaker	Chair Gwen Carmolli	<i>Share 1 thing you envision students successfully doing, based on this council's work...</i> Name: Key Point/s: Today's Note Taker:
5 minutes 10:05-10:10	Review and approve minutes	Chair Gwen Carmolli	<i>Entertain motion to approve minutes</i> Motion: Second: Discussion, if any Vote yes #: Vote no #:
15 minutes 10:10-10:25	Hear public comment	Chair Gwen Carmolli	<i>Chair Gwen Carmolli: Please provide name and keep comments brief to allow for other public comments. Thank you for your comments.</i> Name: Key Point/s:

# Discuss Work Plan

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*Discuss Work Plan*

*Questions to consider:*

- *Shall we work as a full group or break into smaller groups for discussion?*
- *Shall we meet online or in-person?*
- *What tools would you like to use to build consensus? (online, voice vote, hand raising, dot selection)*
- *Are there any proposed adjustments to the plan?*

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**Next Meeting: October 27, 12:00-2:00**

**Thank you!**