

Comments and Questions from Act 78 Study Committee Members

In Favor of:

- Having a more organized and centralized approach
- Streamlining and simplifying the various systems that will save time and money
- The necessary statutory changes that are needed - they make sense

Concerns:

- Still unclear on the funding piece – it seems vague.
- Would like to better understand:
"These proposed changes will also support adequate funding from an appropriate source of funds, the General Fund, that will enable the Agency of Education (AOE) to administer this program as a direct grant to Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) providers."
- If the funding really is that complex, how are we going to simplify and streamline it?
- How can we ensure that the funds are secure and not likely to be cut in the future?
 - AEL funding needs to be "bulletproof" (can't be taken away through rules)
 - Funding needs to grow with inflation

Questions:

- Where does the AOE funding come from? From the General Fund or Education Fund?
- Why does AEL follow the same streams as other AOE monies?
- If it is separated from other AOE funding, is it at risk of being cut?
- How will the 26% get earmarked – it's been in statute, but hasn't been happening what will make it different this time?
 - Is 26% sufficient?

Concerns not about report, but about Ed system in VT:

- The AOE needs to support a structured, science-based approach to reading instruction. This is first and foremost in getting more students to graduate on time.
- Would like to see the AOE double down on its support of struggling schools, so that more students graduate on time and with the necessary skills.