



Staff-to-Student Ratios Task Force

October 11, 2018, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Agency of Education
219 North Main Street, Secretary's Office
Barre, VT 05641

Purpose of the Task Force per [Act 11 of the Special Session of 2018](#): To present to the House and Senate Committees on Education, on or before December 15, 2018, its findings concerning optimum staff-to-student ratios, including optimum ratios for a variety of school and school district sizes and configurations and a recommendation as to whether staff-to-student target ratios should be included in statute for fiscal year 2021.

3:00 p.m. – 3:35 p.m.: **Introductions**

3:35 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: **Overview of [Act 11 of the Special Session of 2018](#)**

Review Charges of the Task Force

- (1) reviewing current staff-to-student count ratios for specific categories of schools and school district configurations, and establishing optimal target ratios for different school district configurations;
- (2) identifying barriers that hamper staffing flexibility at the local level, including whether aspects of the regulatory environment, including mandatory staffing requirements and collective bargaining or other contractual obligations, contribute to lower staff-to-student ratios;
- (3) aligning to the greatest extent possible the work of the Task Force with existing research findings and reports, based on studies conducted either nationally or in New England, concerning optimal classroom practices and resources, class and school sizes for successful learning outcomes, and the impact of population decline on rural schools;
- (4) attending to compliance with federal rules and regulations, so as to avoid jeopardizing the State's federal funding;
- (5) determining a mechanism or mechanisms that account for the effects of familial and community-level poverty and human services need, including student experiences of trauma and familial or community-level addiction, on staffing ratios;
- (6) considering the impact on staff-to-student ratios due to students' enrollment with independent schools; and
- (7) developing recommended strategies for districts to help them meet targets.

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.:

Business Items

- [Per Diem Payments](#)
- Election of Chair
- Organization of Task Force Work
- Schedule for Future Meetings
- Other

4:30 p.m.:

Adjourn