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TO: Vermont State Board of Education
FROM: Sue Ceglowski, VSBA Executive Director, Flor Diaz-Smith, VSBA President, and Clare Wook, Task Force Chair on behalf of the Vermont School Board Association's Task Force on Collaboration to Benefit All Students
RE: Response to State Board of Education letter dated Oct. 16, 2024
DATE: December 9, 2024
CC: Task Force members, VSBA Board of Directors

We are writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated Oct. 16, 2024, which the Task Force received, reviewed, and discussed.

The VSBA's *Task Force on Collaboration to Benefit All Students* summarized long-standing concerns from school board members and other educational leaders from across all regions of the State, and made recommendations on ways to improve the functioning, efficiency and effectiveness of both the State Board of Education and the Agency of Education. The constituency of the State Board of Education, which is every person in Vermont, expects and deserves the successful delivery of public education which depends upon clearly defined roles and responsibilities, accessible data to inform decision-making, and accountability for each and every element of a comprehensive system.

We appreciate that the State Board and the VSBA agree that more work needs to be done, including obtaining the resources necessary to establish and regularly update the long-term strategic vision required under 16 V.S.A. § 164 and that changes are necessary to allow this work to happen. We will advocate for such changes during the upcoming legislative session and hope that you will do the same to help resolve long-standing issues.