



TO: Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont
FROM: Sue Ceglowski, Executive Director, Vermont School Boards Association
RE: [Report of VSBA's Task Force on Collaboration to Benefit All Students](#)
DATE: October 21, 2024

Good afternoon. I am Sue Ceglowski, Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards Association. We understand that the Commission is currently focused on recommendations it will make in its preliminary report due on December 15, 2024 with short-term cost containment considerations for the 2025 legislative session.

Another charge of the Commission is to make recommendations regarding education governance at the State level, including (i) whether changes need to be made to the structure of the Agency of Education; (ii) what are the staffing needs of the Agency of Education; and (iii) whether changes need to be made to the composition, role, and function of the State Board of Education to better serve the recommended education vision of the State.

To assist the Commission in these areas, the VSBA is providing the report of its Task Force on Collaboration to Benefit All Students. The Task Force was created by a resolution passed by VSBA membership and consists of eleven school board members (one from each of VSBA's eleven regions). It met more than 10 times over 9 months and collected feedback from several other education groups.

The result is the [Task Force Report](#) which makes five recommendations:

1. Expand and Maintain a Comprehensive & Accurate Data Dashboard
2. Improve the Capacity of the Agency of Education to Meet Statutory Responsibilities
3. Utilize the District Quality Standards to Improve the Function of the State Board of Education
4. Depoliticize the State Board of Education
5. Prioritize Existing Legislation

The Report provides actionable steps under each of the five recommendations and acknowledges the importance of the work of this Commission which was created after the Task Force began its work.

Many of the issues outlined in the Task Force report will be addressed by this Commission, including:

1. The creation of a sustainable education funding system that provides equitable education opportunities for all children
2. The structure, staffing and resource allocation for the Agency of Education and
3. The composition, role and function of the State Board of Education.

The Task Force Report affirms the need for these issues to be resolved in order for substantive improvements to be made to education in Vermont.

Thank you, and we encourage you to read the full Report which is linked in my written testimony.