

# Data Overview

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**DECEMBER 2, 2024**

**COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC  
EDUCATION**

# Agenda

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- Process Update
  - [Response to Data Requests](#)
  - Status Update Tool
- Highlights from AOE Reports, Published in November
  - [Rereleased State Education Profile](#)
  - [Vermont's Education Funding System: Explained and Compared to Other States](#)
- Key Takeaways from Education Finance Subcommittee Data Presentations
- Next Steps

# Data Request Response

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Role of the Agency of Education



Shifting to a data-driven culture



Specific Data Questions



Status of Data Response

# Status Update Tool

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- Provides a “point-in-time” overview
- Will be updated as data requests are received and processed
- Highlights
  - The AOE has received 34 discrete data requests related to budget analysis, cost drivers, use of education fund, and student outcomes
  - The AOE has delivered on the vast majority of the data requests with the exception of a few items that the education finance subcommittee is refining or has deemed not needed at this time. Additionally, the AOE is developing a data collection to validate class size by district.
  - Future topical reports will provide a deeper analysis of special education delivery, prekindergarten, and college & career readiness.

# Rereleased State Education Profile

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## Updates

- **New section** – Vermont Education Ecosystem
- **Enrollment Figures** – Updated across all years; CTE and dual enrollment separated; Updated/new maps
- **Demographics** – Special education percentages and SU/SD comparisons by need updates
- **Performance** – Preliminary 2023-24 VT CAP included
- **Staffing** – Focus on data through 2022-23; Pre-K and CTE excluded from analysis
- **Expenditures** – More detailed analysis, including total, operating and Education Fund expenditures
- **Appendices** – Recipe cards, open source data, maps

# Rereleased State Education Profile – (continued)

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## Consistent Data Story (compared to August Report)

- Vermont schools tend to be smaller and more highly staffed
- Significant enrollment decline over past 20 years with much of the change occurring prior to the pandemic
- Persistent achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged, English Learner and special education groups
- Differences based on size and need of SU/SD, given that smaller SU/SD tend to serve higher need students and paying teachers less

## New Insights

- Steeper enrollment decline than previously reported; adjusted SU/SD groupings
- More nuanced analysis of expenditures (total, operating, Education Fund). Education Fund expenditures are not meaningfully higher in higher need communities (analysis preceded Act 127 weights)

# Vermont's Education Funding Report

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- Explained
  - Organized by commonly asked questions
- How Vermont Compares to Common Ways Other States Fund Education
  - Funding, budget timeline, governance, educational best practices
- Future Considerations

# How Vermont's System Compares

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- Reverse approach to other states
- Considerable independence but less control on impact to taxpayers
- More & bigger school boards
- Limited benchmarks/comparative analysis
- Small class size
- Many teachers, but at lower pay
- Fewer specialized teachers
- Reliance on paraprofessionals
- Tendency to favor full-time staff
- Role of tuitioning & statewide education programs
- Budgeting process and timeline – starts earlier/ends earlier



# Future Considerations

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- **Funding:** Revising the statewide education funding formula
- **Structure:** Explore ways to organize and structure districts to promote more equitable learning opportunities
- **Staffing:** Align personnel with student enrollment needs, especially given workforce shortage, in ways that increase teacher salaries
- Other considerations

# Recent Education Finance Subcommittee Presentations

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- Education Fund expenditure analysis per LTADM by object and function
- School Size
- Rereleased State Education Profile Report
- Fundamentals of a Foundation Formula