Policy Ideas to Control Cost Drivers

Require school districts to designate up to three public schools if they close a school to limit expansion of tuition vouchers

Further incentivization or mandates for school mergers

Adjust excess
spending
penalties/thresholds
to address cost
drivers not just
spending per
equalized pupils

Limit tuition payments to average announced tuition

additional administrative support/standards from AoE to reduce district level admin costs/needs

Mandate cost limits for therapeutic schools in VT

bulk purchasing close small schools

Tuition costs to approved providers (excluding Pre-K)

Short term, eliminate new calculation using statewide CLA and allow the old method to continue at least for FY26. This will allow districts to build budgets with consistency.

2023 Report on VT Ed Financing has a menue of policy considerations. Agree on what is off the table

Revise Statewide Bargaining and Address Healthcare Costs

Try to address healthcare costs

Strengthen designated agencies ability to collaborate with schools

Solutions related to increasing facilities costs Solutions related to health care costs

Implement upstream special ed services Adjusting staffing ratios by establishing minimum class sizes

Reference based healthcare costs End in-house pre-k programs

Merge small schools and districts

Establish optimal school sizes Reestablish School construction and repair funding with standards that encourage appropriate sizing.

Costs of benefits and the rate of annual growth

> Return health care to local districts to bargain

Policy Ideas to Reduce Property Tax Rates

Move expenses not within the control of local districts outside of the Education Fund -Education Fund only used to support "education spending".

Expand to

Add a statutory requirement for new programs and mandates to have a sustainable funding source, other than the ed fund and raising costs on local district budgets.

Diversify revenue sources for the Ed Fund to ensure alignment with national average of state support for school budgets

Set clear targets for appropriate per pupil spending and set education fund incentives to meet that best practice

sales tax services

> Property tax surcharge on second homes

Property tax credit reforms

> Address Staff to Student ratios and class size minimums in the Education Quality standards to help districts come into alignment and reduce costs.

Better tie local votes of reduced local spending to district tax rate reductions

Tax millionaires

Go to income based tax for Education

Add more revenue

Ed Funding formula changes to try to mitigate impacts/incentives that lead to higher spending in the system as a whole

Policy Ideas to Reduce District Spending

Allowable growth rates

Excess Spending Thresholds

Rules around amount and uses of district reserves establish allowable growth level

AOE personnel support to the field was reduced to the field as a result of Act 46. Has this been effective?

Clearly identify mission and role of public schools versus other human services and community programs - what is not within the mission should not be part of the budget

Bake sales

noted on another slide, but class size minimums or staffing guidelines that are attainable for districts. This would help districts reduce staffing without local political pressures.

AHS staff perform social service functions in schools

Incentivize
economies of scale
by prioritizing
capital needs of
SDs/SUs that need
to improve
infrasture in order to
merge building
populations.

Statewide bargaining including ways to balance costs like salary increases with potential of controlling costs like changes in healthcare plan design

Grants to towns to help repurpose closed school buildings to help with consolidation/small school closure

Data Desires

How do FY24 costs line up with the historical trends?

Growth of mental health costs like behavior interventionists as overall increase in SD/SU percental costs

As discussed, seeing data of overall spending by object and function in percentages, but also helpful to just see General Fund Expenses in this same way.

How much in ESSER funds did VT get by year? When was the money spent/on what? What was the breakdown between ongoing and one-time?

Breatkdown of tuition expenses

Consultant on national picture of state revenues funding education

Determine what percentage in increased personnel costs is related to implementation of

Act 173

How do we measure
the impact on the
Education Fund
beyond cost per
pupil? Larger districts
may spend less per
pupil but their draw
from the Education
Fund is very large.

How do spending

demographics and

spending levels?

trends differ in

districts with a

variety of

Tuition Expenses

> understanding of how CLA has impacted a diverse selection of towns in the state.

A better

Interested in the breakdown of percentages of Ed fund spending similar to the work done on revenues.

What does research say on optimal school sizes?

pictu state fundi educ

Ideas to Increase Equity

Funding formula reform Examine the floor and ceiling of the current formula: some districts that should benefit from Act 127 are not realizing the changes and are spending well below equitable levels