



219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641 (p) 802-479-1030 | (f) 802-479-1835

Elementary Schools; Town Academies

What options do school districts have regarding how they educate their elementary students?

An elementary school district is responsible for educating all of its resident children. It can do this in one of two ways:

- A district can operate a public elementary school in which all of its students enroll (*e.g.*, a community school).
 - Under this option, the district provides the education and establishes the program's budget, as approved by the voters. (16 V.S.A. § 821(a))
- A district can pay tuition to one or more public schools. In addition, if the voters grant specific authorization, the district may also pay tuition to any approved independent school chosen by a student/parent.
 - Under this option, parents choose the schools (seats available) and the district pays tuition. (16 V.S.A. § 821(a)(1) & (d))

Can we turn our public elementary school into a town academy?

There is no such thing as a town elementary school academy in Vermont.

There are public elementary schools and there are independent elementary schools.

Some independent schools use the word "academy" in their name, but no independent elementary school in Vermont is a public or quasi-public entity with legal connections to the school district, the voters of the district, or the town in which it is located.

Note: This document is provided for guidance only and does not have the force of law. See the underlying statutes and/or Acts for more detail.