

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 3, 2025

Vermont General Assembly
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Legislators:

Vermonters made it clear on election day that they believe our top priority should be to get education spending growth and property taxes back on a sustainable path. Doing so is imperative for our kids, taxpayers, communities and the economy and it will require courage and collaboration between school boards, state government and the entire education community.

The good news is, with a series of short- medium- and long-term actions, we *can* stabilize both spending and taxes, while *also* improving our education system to better serve kids.

The team at the Agency of Education (AOE) has spent more than six months listening carefully to, and learning from, parents, educators, administrators and taxpayers throughout the state. These local discussions, alongside past proposals from our administration and legislators, have helped guide the **comprehensive education proposal I will present alongside my FY26 budget.**

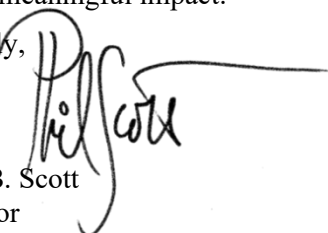
In advance, it will be essential to establish a shared understanding of our education ecosystem, and how we compare to the best national practices—especially in performance, funding, and governance. So, the AOE and Department of Taxes have **suggested the below schedule to provide critical background information, context, and information to you.**

Wherever possible, **we request scheduling joint sessions** with the Senate Education Committee, House Education Committee, Senate Finance Committee, House Ways and Means Committee, and other committees as relevant.

When you have completed your organizational work, we look forward to working with the new committees. Jason Maulucci, Director of Policy Development and Legislative Affairs, will reach out to leadership to assess interest in this proposal and to finalize the logistics.

Thank you for your continued service to Vermont. Together, we will chart a path forward that is both sustainable and transforms our education system for the better. We look forward to working with you to make a meaningful impact.

Sincerely,


Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp

Proposed Education Transformation Testimony Syllabus for House and Senate Education Committees & House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees

Date	Topic	Description	Subject Matter Experts to Invite in for Testimony
January 9, 2025	Governor's Inaugural Address	Overview of the current challenges and opportunities for Vermont's education system and the Governor's vision for a world-class education system from cradle-to-career	n/a
January 10, 2025	Listen and Learn Findings	Summary of the Scott Administration's educational priorities, based on data and input captured through the Agency of Education's Listen and Learn Tour, involving over 1,000 stakeholders through regional planning with education leaders, public engagement sessions, and focus groups with educators and students. Explore challenges and opportunities to achieving the state's educational priorities.	Zoie Saunders, Secretary of Education Jill Briggs-Campbell, Interim Deputy Secretary of Education
January 14, 2025	State Education Profile	Overview of state and regional education trends related to performance, enrollment, expenditures, staffing, special education delivery, tuitioning, school characteristics, and student demographics. Discuss factors contributing to trends, recent legislative changes, and opportunities to strengthen the state education system.	Zoie Saunders, Secretary of Education Jill Briggs-Campbell, Interim Deputy Secretary of Education Augenblick, Palaich and Associates

<p>January 15, 2025</p>	<p>Vermont Education Funding System – Part 1 (programmatic focus)</p>	<p>Description and evolution of Vermont’s education funding system in response to Brigham decision and recent legislation and how it compares to other states. Explore the degree to which the current education funding system is achieving the goals as intended in our current context.</p>	<p>Zoie Saunders, Secretary of Education</p> <p>Jill Briggs-Campbell, Interim Deputy Secretary of Education</p> <p>Emily Simmons, Agency of Education Legal Counsel</p> <p>Craig Bolio, Tax Commissioner</p> <p>New Solutions K-12</p>
<p>January 16, 2025</p>	<p>Vermont Education Funding System- Part 2 (finance & tax focus)</p>	<p>Deeper dive into the pros and cons of Vermont’s education funding system. Review opportunities to improve predictability, transparency, and sustainability for taxpayers.</p> <p>Explore advantages of restructuring the property tax credit as a tiered homestead exemption based on income.</p>	<p>Zoie Saunders, Secretary of Education</p> <p>Jill Briggs-Campbell, Interim Deputy Secretary of Education</p> <p>Craig Bolio, Tax Commissioner</p> <p>Jake Feldman, Tax Senior Fiscal Analyst</p> <p>Augenblick, Palaich and Associates</p>

<p>January 17, 2025</p>	<p>Education Governance in Vermont</p>	<p>Overview of education governance, including the role of the Agency of Education, State Board of Education, and local school boards. Discuss the Agency of Education’s strategic priorities based on the Listen and Learn Tour, recent legislation, and division planning, including capacity building strategies to support the state’s educational priorities.</p>	<p>Zoie Saunders, Secretary of Education</p> <p>Jill Briggs Campbell, Interim Deputy Secretary of Education</p> <p>Emily Simmons, AOE Legal Counsel</p>
<p>January 21, 2025</p>	<p>Cradle-to-Career System – Part 1</p>	<p>Overview of Vermont’s universal pre-school, universal afterschool, community schools pilot program, and recommendations to expand access to preschool and afterschool programs.</p>	<p>Zoie Saunders, Sec. Education</p> <p>Jill Briggs Campbell, Interim Deputy Secretary of Education</p> <p>Janet McLaughlin, Dep. Commission CDD</p>
<p>January 22, 2025</p>	<p>Cradle-to-Career System – Part 2</p>	<p>Overview of Vermont’s flexible pathways programs and explore recommendations to expand career and technical education.</p>	<p>Zoie Saunders, Sec. Education</p> <p>Jill Briggs Campbell, Interim Deputy Secretary of Education</p> <p>Ruth Durke, State Director of CTE</p> <p>Augenblick, Palaich and Associates</p>

<p>January 23, 2024</p>	<p>Fundamentals of a Foundation Formula</p>	<p>Overview of how a foundation formula enables student centered funding, including addressing different definitions of equity. Discuss unique Vermont considerations, success factors, and stabilization needs during the transition to a foundation formula.</p>	<p>Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates</p> <p>New Solutions K-12</p> <p>Zoie Saunders, Secretary of Education</p> <p>Jill Briggs Campbell, Int. Deputy Secretary of Education</p> <p>Craig Bolio, Tax Commissioner</p>
<p>January 24, 2025</p>	<p>Recap policy considerations and prioritize further exploration and information or data needed</p>	<p>Opportunity to identify areas of early consensus, document questions, and prioritize data and research needs to support ongoing collaboration.</p>	<p>Zoie Saunders, Sec. Education</p> <p>Jill Briggs-Campbell, Interim Deputy Secretary of Education</p> <p>Craig Bolio, Tax Commissioner</p> <p>Additional subject matter experts as requested</p>
<p>January 28, 2025</p>	<p>Delivery of the Governor’s FY26 Budget and Budget Address</p>	<p>Overview of the Administration’s education policy framework and associated budget.</p>	<p>Representatives from the Administration available to discuss details of proposed education language and budget in relevant Committees for remainder of week</p>