

Statement in Support of The Expeditionary School at Black River

I am writing to support the Expeditionary School at Black River and their request to receive public funding via tuition reimbursement. This school is exactly the type of option that many students in Vermont need. Not only does it help fill an educational geographic hole, but it also fills a curricular hole. There will always be students who are better served by the Expeditionary School's offerings, and there is simply no downside to offering a small sliver of the student population an educational option that is better suited to them as individuals. Approving this funding will be beneficial for not only the students who attend the Expeditionary School, but also for Ludlow and adjacent communities.

I feel I have a relevant perspective as I currently teach at the Mount Holly School, I formerly taught at Black River High School, I have several former students who have attended the Expeditionary School, I am a parent of two recent graduates of another Vermont publicly funded independent school and I served as an officer and trustee on the board of a my children's independent elementary school in Massachusetts. My opinion is considered and informed and I am confident funding the Expeditionary School is the right thing to do.

School choice is one of the best aspects of living in Vermont and raising children here. I urge you to approve this request and to improve education and quality of life in Vermont.

Sincerely,
Robert Ruley
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