

**Section 21 of Act 153 of the 2009 Session
Study on Small School Grant Eligibility Due to
Geographic Necessity**

An Act Relating to Voluntary School District Merger, Virtual
Merger, Supervisory Union Duties, and Including Secondary
Students with Disabilities in Senior Year Activities and
Ceremonies

Submitted by:



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Executive Summary

Section 21 of Act 153 (2009, No. 153 (Adj. Sess.)) directed the commissioner of education to identify school districts with small schools that should be deemed eligible due to geographic necessity, and to recommend a method to gradually withdraw state aid for those schools that were small but not eligible due to geographic necessity. The language was not intended to recommend the closing nor the merging of non-identified schools.

With the passage of Act 60 in 1997, the funding of schools was no longer a local responsibility, but instead became a state responsibility. Thus, all taxpayers in the state are affected by spending decisions made at the local level.

Act 60 of 1997 created small schools grants for general support and financial stability. In FY1999, the first year of implementation, 46 districts were eligible for \$921,000 in small schools grants. A second support grant calculation was implemented in FY2000 which expanded the eligible districts to 87 at a cost of \$4,100,000. In FY2011, 104 districts received \$7,100,000 in small schools grants.

Identifying districts with schools small due to geographic necessity was based on visual inspection of a topographic map plotting school location and determination of travel distances and times to the next closest school. Capacity was not used as a criterion as those data are not readily available nor easily obtained. The nature of adjacent roads was also considered as a factor as some roads are more easily traveled than others.

Of the 104 districts with schools eligible under current language, 23 were considered to be eligible due to geographic necessity. Those 23 districts were eligible for \$1,690,000 in support grants in FY2011. Maintaining that level of support for those districts but removing it for the other 81 districts will reduce payments from the Education Fund by \$5,300,000.

If the Legislature so chooses, it is recommended to remove support for the 81 districts over a period of two years, based on the support level received for the FY2012 small schools support grant. It is recommended to fund those schools at 2/3 of the FY2012 level in FY2013 and 1/3 of the level in FY2014. Those 81 districts will not receive support for small schools in FY2015.

It is suggested that the Legislature consider rescinding the small schools financial stability grant, effective for FY2013. The structure for the support grant calculation provides additional resources for schools with declining enrollments. Additionally, large declines in students are further protected by the annual maximum allowable loss of 3.5% in the equalized pupil calculation.

I. Introduction

Due both to Vermont's small population and geographic features, many schools in the state have historically been small. While a straight line may show towns – and therefore, schools – to be close together, due to the hills and valleys of Vermont, the roads are often long and winding. As roads and transportation have improved, travel times have decreased, school mergers have occurred, but many small schools still remain.

People in towns with small schools tend to be both proud and protective of their schools. The schools not only educate the local children, but they often are used as focal points for community gatherings. Historically, it was the local community that supported the school. With the passage of Act 60 in 1997, the funding of education became a state responsibility. Thus, it was no longer just the local community supporting the local small school, but rather the entire state supporting the school, although the education tax rate of the local school district reflected the cost.

The Legislature created small school grants to assist local communities in funding their small schools. Economic times have changed significantly and the viability of that state support is in question. Under the current statutory language, many small schools as currently defined have received assistance, although they may be in close proximity to another school with a similar grade configuration. In such cases, it is highly likely significant financial savings could be realized if the schools were to combine into one.

Section 21 of Act 153 (2009, No. 153 (Adj. Sess.)) directed the commissioner of education to identify school districts with small schools that should be deemed eligible due to geographic necessity, determine if additional state aid was necessary to ensure their viability, and to recommend a method to gradually withdraw state aid for those schools that were small but not eligible due to geographic necessity.

The language was not intended to recommend the closing nor the merging of non-identified schools but rather to remove state support for those schools that are not geographically isolated. Doing so will reduce the revenues available to those school districts not identified as geographically isolated, subsequently increasing the homestead tax rates for those school districts.

II. Overview of Small Schools Grants (16 V.S.A. § 4015)

The Vermont Legislature created a small schools support grant with the passage of Act 60 (1997, No. 60, § 93). Prior to implementation, the Legislature amended Act 60, creating an additional financial stability grant to assist in supporting small schools with rapidly declining enrollments (1997, No. 71, § 92). Both grants were implemented in the FY1999 school year. Both grant calculations were based on two-year average enrollments, with an eligible school district being defined as one that operated at least one school and had a combined two-year average enrollment of 100 or fewer students.

- A. The small schools support grant was based on the two-year average enrollment times \$500, with the product being subtracted from \$50,000. There was a maximum grant of \$2,500 per enrolled pupil.

- B. The small schools financial stability grant was for those eligible districts whose two-year average enrollment declined by more than 10% of the prior year's average figure. The size of the grant was calculated by first determining the pupil count required to limit the two-year average enrollment loss to a 10% decline. This pupil count was multiplied by the general state support grant to determine the financial stability grant.

In FY1999, the first year of implementation of the small schools grants, 46 school districts were eligible for \$921,000 from the small schools support grant. Of those 46 districts, 3 were eligible for an additional \$58,367 from the financial stability grant (Table 1).

For FY2000, the following year, the Legislature expanded the pool of eligible school districts for the support grant from 52 to 87 by creating a second support grant calculation (1999, No. 49, § 3). Using the average two-year enrollment, eligibility for this second method was based on an average grade size of 20 or fewer in schools operated by the district.

- C. Average grade size meant the two-year average enrollment divided by the number of grades offered. A factor based on average grade size was multiplied by the two-year enrollment average. The result was multiplied by what was then the general state support grant. Beginning in FY2005, the general state support grant was replaced by the base education amount, which in turn was multiplied by 87% (Table 1).

Not only did this second calculation method increase the number of eligible districts from 52 to 87, but it also inflated the support grant cost from \$940,000 to \$4,080,000. If a school district was eligible for either of the small schools support grant calculations, it was allowed the calculation that resulted in the greater amount (*i.e.*, the larger of calculation A or C above). In FY2011, 104 school districts were eligible for just under \$7,000,000 from the support grant calculations. Of those 104 districts, 9 were also eligible for an additional \$112,000 from the financial stability grant. The initial total cost of the small schools grants has grown from \$980,000 in FY1999 to an estimated \$7,240,000 in FY2012, based on an estimated base education amount of \$8,544 (Table 1).

Table 1. Small Schools Grants Amounts, FY1999 through FY2012¹

Fiscal Year	Small Schools Support Grants		Small Schools Financial Stability Grants		Total Grants	GSSG / Base Amount	Applicable Percentage	Amount to Use
	count	amount	count	amount				
FY1999	46	\$921,000	3	\$58,367	\$979,367	\$5,010	na	na
FY2000	87	\$4,084,920	6	\$53,040	\$4,095,043	\$5,100	100%	\$5,100
FY2001	94	\$4,308,116	9	\$111,931	\$4,420,047	\$5,194	100%	\$5,194
FY2002	95	\$4,457,021	8	\$53,118	\$4,510,139	\$5,448	100%	\$5,448
FY2003	97	\$4,618,184	11	\$141,098	\$4,759,282	\$5,566	100%	\$5,566
FY2004	100	\$4,921,003	10	\$102,839	\$5,023,842	\$5,810	100%	\$5,810
FY2005	98	\$5,040,320	15	\$172,745	\$5,213,065	\$6,800	87%	\$5,916
FY2006	99	\$5,046,180	8	\$62,805	\$5,108,985	\$6,975	87%	\$6,068
FY2007	100	\$5,530,917	3	\$71,105	\$5,602,022	\$7,330	87%	\$6,377
FY2008	102	\$6,032,645	8	\$60,907	\$6,093,552	\$7,736	87%	\$6,730
FY2009	106	\$6,467,854	8	\$97,860	\$6,565,714	\$8,210	87%	\$7,143
FY2010	106	\$6,780,356	9	\$134,539	\$6,914,895	\$8,544	87%	\$7,433
FY2011	104	\$6,986,413	9	\$112,241	\$7,098,654	\$8,544	87%	\$7,433
FY2012¹	104	\$7,156,051	2	\$84,364	\$7,240,415	\$8,544	87%	\$7,433

¹ FY2012 are estimates only, based on \$8,544. The base education amount has not yet been set.

III. Methodology

A topographic map of Vermont was produced, plotting schools found to be small as per current statute (16 V.S.A. § 4015). Also plotted were the remainder of the schools in the state. Grade configurations and the FY2010 enrollments were shown for each school. It should be noted that capacity was not used as a criterion. School capacity data are not readily available and cannot be easily obtained.

A visual inspection of the map was made by DOE personnel and a consensus list of small schools that appeared to be geographically separated from other schools was compiled. Schools on the consensus list were then looked at in more detail. For each identified school, the driving distance and time to the next closest school with a similar grade configuration were determined using various mapping programs (Arc View, Google Maps, and MapQuest). It should be noted that the programs based driving times on personal automobiles, not school buses. Therefore, the driving times shown can be expected to be longer in actuality.

Initially, a school was considered to be an eligible small school due to geographic necessity if the driving time to the next school was greater than 15 minutes or the distance was greater than 10 miles. The list was then refined further by personal knowledge of the roads and areas. Some schools not initially on the list were added, regardless of distances or driving times.

A strictly objective methodology that could be uniformly applied was difficult to develop due to school proximities to major state routes. A school that was further in distance than another school may have been situated adjacent to a major state route rather than a less well maintained secondary road, thus significantly decreasing travel time.

IV. Small Schools Identified as Eligible Due to Geographic Necessity

Subdivision (1) of Act 153, section 21, requires the commissioner of education to identify small schools that are eligible due to geographic necessity. Twenty-three small schools were identified as being eligible due to geographic necessity (Table 2). It was considered that either the driving times or distances, along with the travel route, were an obstacle in transporting students. Distances and times shown are from school to school and do not take into account additional distance and times for students to reach their current school. Thus, actual seat time on a school bus could be considerably longer for many students than the times shown in the table.

Table 2: Small Schools Eligible Due to Geographic Necessity (by County)

School District	S.U.	County	Distance		Grades	FY10 Enroll	FY2011		Support Grant Per Pupil
			Time (min)	Miles			Support Grant	Stability Grant	
Stamford	Windham Southwest	Bennington	19	12	K-8	68	\$90,404	-	\$1,329
Brighton	North Country	Essex	18	10	PK-8	106	\$103,876	\$3,717	\$980
Canaan	Essex North	Essex	50	29	K-12	212	\$88,713	-	\$418
Guildhall	Essex - Caledonia	Essex	19	12	K-6	20	\$40,250	\$5,575	\$2,013
Lunenburg	Essex - Caledonia	Essex	19	14	PK-8	125	\$83,082	-	\$665
Bakersfield	Franklin Northeast	Franklin	15	9	K-8	155	\$47,274	-	\$305
Franklin	Franklin Northwest	Franklin	19	11	K-6	130	\$23,693	-	\$182
Montgomery	Franklin Northeast	Franklin	20	12	K-8	127	\$92,913	-	\$732
Eden	Lamoille North	Lamoille	13	8	PK-6	131	\$23,693	-	\$181
Waterville	Lamoille North	Lamoille	14	8	PK-6	81	\$73,512	-	\$908
Strafford	Orange - Windsor	Orange	11	7	K-8	123	\$88,824	-	\$722
Charleston	North Country	Orleans	18	10	PK-8	97	\$100,011	-	\$1,031
Lakeview USD #043	Orleans Southwest	Orleans	20	10	K-6	74	\$77,062	-	\$1,041
Lowell	North Country	Orleans	15	11	PK-8	123	\$88,081	-	\$716
Mt. Holly	Rutland - Windsor	Rutland	16	9	K-6	113	\$45,992	-	\$407
Sherburne	Windsor Central	Rutland	18	12	PK-6	98	\$70,985	-	\$724
Shrewsbury	Rutland South	Rutland	19	10	PK-6	64	\$77,303	-	\$1,208
Grafton Elem School	Windham Northeast	Windham	13	7	K-6	76	\$75,371	-	\$992
Marlboro	Windham Central	Windham	11	8	PK-8	95	\$99,695	-	\$1,049
Windham	Windham Central	Windham	18	11	PK-6	19	\$40,000	\$15,238	\$2,105
Barnard	Windsor Central	Windsor	17	10	K-6	74	\$80,834	-	\$1,092
Rochester	Windsor Northwest	Windsor	16	11	K-12	210	\$106,664	-	\$508
Stockbridge	Windsor Northwest	Windsor	14	8	PK-6	67	\$76,523	-	\$1,142
Totals						2,388	\$1,694,755	\$24,530	\$710

Of the schools identified as small due to geographic necessity, twelve are grades K – 6, nine are grades K – 8, and two are grades K – 12. (For the purposes of the calculation, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten are counted as one grade as per statute.) The vast preponderance of small schools as defined under current statute are either grades K – 6 or K – 8. Only four of the 104 schools defined as small under current statute are grades K – 12, with two those being identified as eligible due to geographic necessity.

While actual seat times on a school bus are very likely longer than the times shown in Table 2, which reflect the time an automobile would travel from school to school, it is important to keep in mind that the majority of identified schools are either grades K – 6 or K – 8. This means that the secondary students from these school districts are already traveling further distances and times than are the elementary students.

V. Financial Support

Subdivision (2) of Act 153, section 21, requires the commissioner of education to review the level of financial support necessary for small schools found to be eligible due to geographic necessity. As the base education figure for FY2012 has not yet been set, FY2011 data will be used for discussion. For FY2011, the base education figure is \$8,544. Using the current funding calculations, the total of small schools grants paid to eligible schools for both the support and financial stability grants is \$7,100,000 in FY2011. The small schools identified as eligible due to geographic necessity account for \$1,720,000 of that figure. Funding only the 23 identified schools would save the Education Fund \$5,380,000.

A. Additional financial support for identified small schools

For the 23 identified schools as a group, the current small schools support grant calculations provide funding for 4.1% of their overall FY2011 total expenditures (4.9% as an average for the individual schools), with a low of 1.0% and a high of 12.3% (Table 3). These 23 schools received \$1,690,000 in small schools support grant in FY2011, an average of \$710 per pupil for the group as a whole.

Table 3: Current Small School Support Grants as a Percentage of Total Expenditures for Small Schools Eligible Due to Geographic Necessity (by County)

School District	FY2011 Total Expenditures	FY2011 Small Schools Support Grant	Percentage of Support Grant vs Expenditures	Support Grant Per Pupil
Stamford	\$1,530,714	\$90,404	5.9%	\$1,329
Brighton	\$1,828,824	\$103,876	5.7%	\$980
Canaan	\$3,209,915	\$88,713	2.8%	\$418
Guildhall	\$625,192	\$40,250	6.4%	\$2,013
Lunenburg	\$2,675,125	\$83,082	3.1%	\$665
Bakersfield	\$3,205,573	\$47,274	1.5%	\$305
Franklin	\$1,507,600	\$23,693	1.6%	\$182
Montgomery	\$2,458,203	\$92,913	3.8%	\$732
Eden	\$2,390,778	\$23,693	1.0%	\$181
Waterville	\$1,292,316	\$73,512	5.7%	\$908
Strafford	\$3,026,548	\$88,824	2.9%	\$722
Charleston	\$1,511,871	\$100,011	6.6%	\$1,031

Lakeview USD #043	\$1,251,848	\$77,062	6.2%	\$1,041
Lowell	\$1,521,155	\$88,081	5.8%	\$716
Mt. Holly	\$1,591,543	\$45,992	2.9%	\$407
Sherburne	\$1,462,266	\$70,985	4.9%	\$724
Shrewsbury	\$1,011,310	\$77,303	7.6%	\$1,208
Grafton Elementary School	\$1,318,981	\$75,371	5.7%	\$992
Marlboro	\$2,048,173	\$99,695	4.9%	\$1,049
Windham	\$325,044	\$40,000	12.3%	\$2,105
Barnard	\$994,737	\$80,834	8.1%	\$1,092
Rochester	\$3,265,046	\$106,664	3.3%	\$508
Stockbridge	\$1,696,129	\$76,523	4.5%	\$1,142
Totals	\$41,748,891	\$1,694,755	4.1%	\$710

Given the overall level of support the current small schools support calculation provides, it is not recommended to increase the level of financial support for small schools eligible due to geographic necessity. The current small schools support grant calculations should be left as written for the small schools eligible due to geographic necessity.

B. Phasing out support for other small schools

Subdivision (3) of Act 153, section 21, directs the commissioner to propose to the Legislature a method to gradually withdraw financial support from those schools recognized as small under current statute but that are not recognized as eligible due to geographic necessity in this proposal. If the Legislature so chooses, it is recommended that the withdrawal of financial support occur over three years, with full support in FY2012, reduced amounts in FY2013 and FY2014, and all support being fully gone in FY2015. Two methods are suggested:

1. Freeze the grant at the FY2012 support level, allowing the schools 2/3 of that amount in FY2013 and 1/3 in FY2014 and no funding in FY2015 (Table 4).

Table 4: Reducing the FY2012 Support Grant

Fiscal Year	Estimated Support Grant	Estimated Savings vs. FY2012
FY2012	\$6,990,000	na
FY2013	\$5,220,000	\$1,770,000
FY2014	\$3,460,000	\$3,530,000
FY2015	\$1,690,000	\$5,300,000

2. Annually calculate the small schools support grant for each year as per current statute, allowing the school to receive 2/3 of the FY2013 calculated amount in year one and 1/3 of the FY2014 annual amount in year two. Estimated savings will approximate those in Table 4 but would vary depending on enrollments and the base education amount in future years.

Method 1 has an advantage in that those schools that will no longer be eligible will know the exact amount of funding they will receive in the following two years before complete withdrawal of the grants. Using Method 2 will have a differing base each year, so that the schools will not have a definite number for budgeting.

C. Rescission of current small schools financial stability grant

It is suggested that effective for FY2013, the Legislature consider rescinding the small schools financial stability grant in current statute (16 V.S.A. § 4015 (c)). The current statutory requirement to hold a small school harmless to no more than a 10% decline in the annual average two-year enrollment acts as a reward for declining students.

As an example, a school with a declining two-year average enrollment of 24 from the previous year's average enrollment of 30 would receive an additional \$22,300 for losing the 6 average students. (The maximum allowable loss of 3 requires funding of 87% of \$8,544 for the 3 students required to bring the school back to a 10% annual loss – *i.e.*, 27 students rather than the actual 24.)

For a small school eligible for the current financial stability grant, the calculation for the small schools support grant generally increases from year to year as populations decline for a given school, providing the school directly with additional support. Additionally, the equalized pupil calculation has an annual allowable maximum loss of 3.5% from year to year, thus holding districts harmless to rapid declines in pupil counts. This 3.5% hold-harmless cap keeps the equalized pupil count artificially high, reducing the homestead tax rate accordingly, an indirect benefit for the taxpayers of districts with small schools with rapidly declining enrollments.

In addition to the two financial supports as described above, one direct and one indirect, maintaining the current financial support grant provides a third benefit to a small school with a declining average enrollment.

VI. Issues to Consider

1. The methodology used to classify a small school as eligible due to geographic necessity was a combination of objective and subjective observations. As such, the methodology does not lend itself to clear and concise criteria. Legislation is normally drafted so that the basis for selection is not ambiguous nor open to question. The criteria could be tightened by setting specific limits on either time or distance traveled. Exceeding one or the other criterion would serve to classify a school as small due to geographic necessity.
2. Geographic necessity is by its very nature a subjective term, as noted previously. With the exception of the two K – 12 schools, in all other instances of the eligible schools, the secondary students from those school districts are already traveling longer distances and for longer times than many of the travel times and distances shown.

VII. Conclusion

Twenty-three school districts were deemed to have small schools due to geographic necessity based on driving times and distances as well as roads. Maintaining the current calculations for small schools support grants for these schools results in an estimated cost of \$1,690,000. Ending the support grant over a period of two years to the 81 school districts not so identified will reduce the cost to the Education Fund by \$5,300,000.

If the recommendations in this report are adopted by the Legislature during the current session, then the 104 districts projected to receive small schools grants in FY2012 will receive full funding in FY2012. In FY2013, those 81 districts not identified as having a small school due to geographic necessity will receive 2/3 of that amount, followed by 1/3 in FY2014, and no small schools aid in FY2015. This provides those 81 districts advance notice that their revenues from the State will be declining.

Additionally, it is suggested that the Legislature consider rescinding the small schools financial support grant, effective FY2013. The current small schools support grant provides an increase in aid as enrollments decline while large drops in students are also protected by the maximum allowable loss of 3.5% in the equalized pupil calculation.

Appendix A: Eligible Districts with Small Schools under Current Small Schools Language (16 V.S.A. § 4015)

Appendix A: Small Schools Eligible under Current Statute, part 1 (by County, Addison - Essex)

School District	S.U.	County	Grades	FY10 Enroll	FY2011		Support Grant Per Pupil
					Support Grant	Stability Grant	
Addison	Addison Northwest S.U.	Addison	K-6	107	56,974	-	532
Bridport	Addison Central S.U.	Addison	PK-6	84	76,932	-	916
Cornwall	Addison Central S.U.	Addison	K-6	84	77,786	-	926
Leicester	Rutland Northeast S.U.	Addison	PK-6	62	78,697	-	1,269
Lincoln	Addison Northeast S.U.	Addison	K-6	113	57,754	-	511
New Haven	Addison Northeast S.U.	Addison	K-6	112	46,809	-	418
Orwell	Addison - Rutland S.U.	Addison	K-8	116	89,939	-	775
Ripton	Addison Central S.U.	Addison	PK-6	44	63,552	-	1,444
Salisbury	Addison Central S.U.	Addison	K-6	94	72,843	-	775
Shoreham	Addison Central S.U.	Addison	K-6	79	79,719	-	1,009
Weybridge	Addison Central S.U.	Addison	K-6	67	75,984	7,805	1,134
Whiting	Rutland Northeast S.U.	Addison	PK-6	42	58,609	-	1,395
Dorset	Bennington - Rutland S.U.	Bennington	K-8	175	19,344	-	111
Readsboro	Windham Southwest S.U.	Bennington	PK-8	64	82,599	-	1,291
Stamford	Windham Southwest S.U.	Bennington	K-8	68	90,404	-	1,329
Sunderland	Bennington - Rutland S.U.	Bennington	K-6	47	65,671	-	1,397
Woodford	Southwest Vermont S.U.	Bennington	K-6	32	46,605	-	1,456
Newark	Caledonia North S.U.	Caledonia	K-8	55	76,263	-	1,387
Peacham	Caledonia Central S.U.	Caledonia	PK-6	38	53,666	-	1,412
Sutton	Caledonia North S.U.	Caledonia	K-8	94	101,312	-	1,078
Walden	Caledonia Central S.U.	Caledonia	K-8	106	100,977	-	953
Millers Run USD	Caledonia North S.U.	Caledonia	PK-8	166	30,475	-	184
Bolton	Chittenden East S.U.	Chittenden	PK-4	88	34,749	-	395
Brighton	North Country S.U.	Essex	PK-8	106	103,876	3,717	980
Canaan	Essex North S.U.	Essex	K-12	212	88,713	-	418
Concord	Essex - Caledonia S.U.	Essex	PK-12	221	67,046	-	303
East Haven	Caledonia North S.U.	Essex	K-8	25	38,250	-	1,530
Guildhall	Essex - Caledonia S.U.	Essex	K-6	20	40,250	5,575	2,013
Lunenburg	Essex - Caledonia S.U.	Essex	PK-8	125	83,082	-	665

Appendix A: Small Schools Eligible under Current Statute, part 2 (by County, Franklin - Orange)

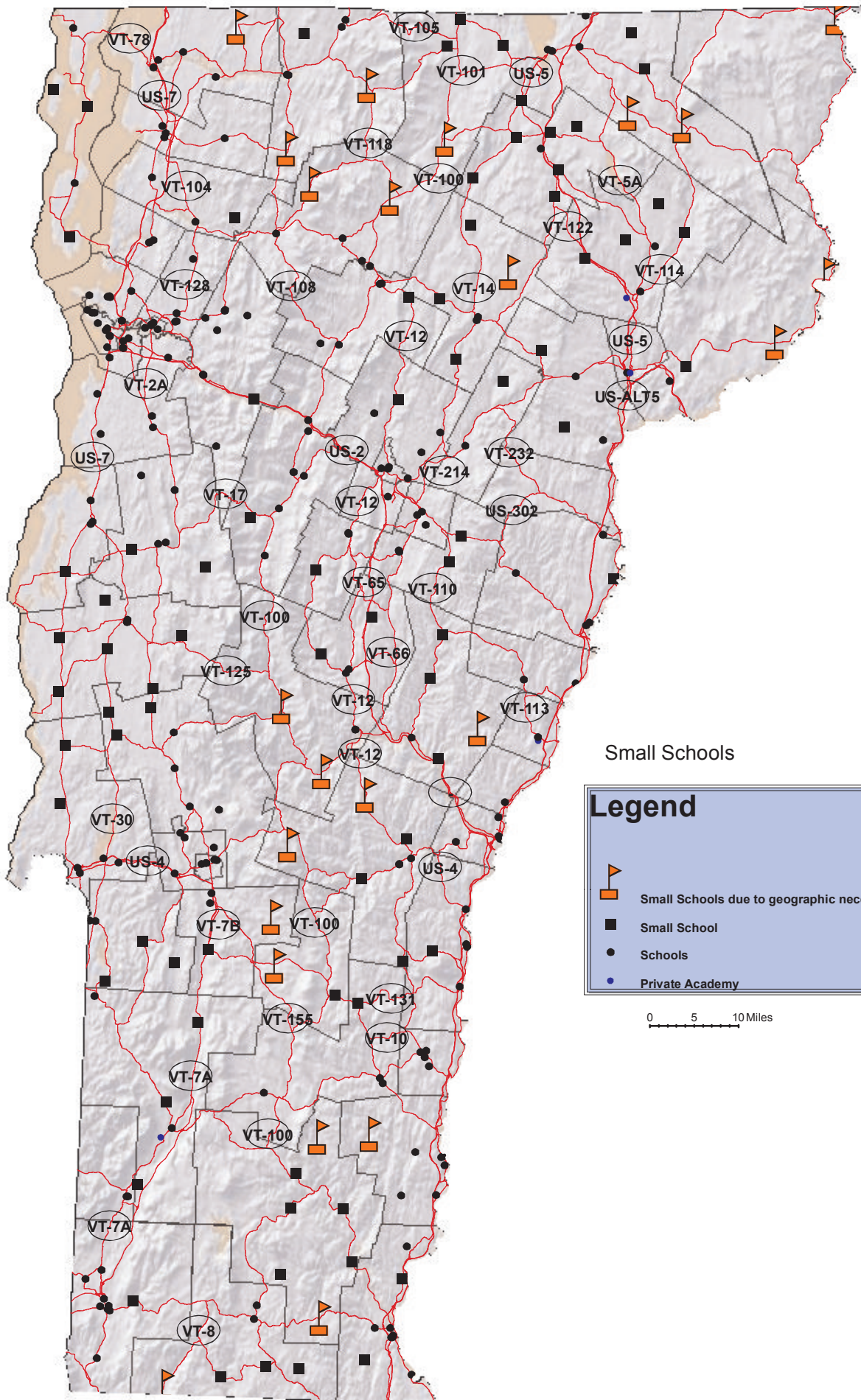
School District	S.U.	County	Grades	FY10 Enroll	FY2011		Support Grant Per Pupil
					Support Grant	Stability Grant	
Bakersfield	Franklin Northeast S.U.	Franklin	K-8	155	47,274	-	305
Berkshire	Franklin Northeast S.U.	Franklin	K-8	171	31,033	-	181
Fletcher	Franklin West S.U.	Franklin	PK-6	134	24,529	-	183
Franklin	Franklin Northwest S.U.	Franklin	K-6	130	23,693	-	182
Montgomery	Franklin Northeast S.U.	Franklin	K-8	127	92,913	-	732
Isle La Motte	Grand Isle S.U.	Grand Isle	K-6	32	46,605	-	1,456
North Hero	Grand Isle S.U.	Grand Isle	K-6	58	73,494	-	1,267
South Hero	Grand Isle S.U.	Grand Isle	K-8	127	81,503	-	642
Eden	Lamoille North S.U.	Lamoille	PK-6	131	23,693	-	181
Elmore	Lamoille South S.U.	Lamoille	1-3	20	40,250	-	2,013
Waterville	Lamoille North S.U.	Lamoille	PK-6	81	73,512	-	908
Wolcott	Orleans Southwest S.U.	Lamoille	K-6	127	24,529	-	193
Braintree	Orange Southwest S.U.	Orange	K-6	86	76,932	3,345	895
Brookfield	Orange Southwest S.U.	Orange	K-6	86	77,359	-	900
Chelsea	Orange - Windsor S.U.	Orange	K-12	164	127,104	-	775
Newbury	Orange East S.U.	Orange	PK-6	119	23,600	-	198
Orange	Orange North S.U.	Orange	K-8	106	102,910	-	971
Strafford	Orange - Windsor S.U.	Orange	K-8	123	88,824	-	722
Tunbridge	Orange - Windsor S.U.	Orange	K-8	107	95,310	-	891
Washington	Orange North S.U.	Orange	PK-8	78	91,575	-	1,174

Appendix A: Small Schools Eligible under Current Statute, part 3 (by County, Orleans - Rutland)

School District	S.U.	County	Grades	FY10 Enroll	FY2011		Support Grant Per Pupil
					Support Grant	Stability Grant	
Jay Westfield Joint School	North Country S.U.	Orleans	K-6	91	75,649	-	831
Albany	Orleans Central S.U.	Orleans	K-8	87	101,851	-	1,171
Barton ID	Orleans Central S.U.	Orleans	K-8	148	61,527	-	416
Brownington	Orleans Central S.U.	Orleans	K-7	80	89,791	-	1,122
Charleston	North Country S.U.	Orleans	PK-8	97	100,011	-	1,031
Coventry	North Country S.U.	Orleans	K-8	90	99,156	-	1,102
Craftsbury	Orleans Southwest S.U.	Orleans	K-12	163	143,606	-	881
Glover	Orleans Central S.U.	Orleans	K-8	127	82,766	-	652
Holland	North Country S.U.	Orleans	PK-6	77	81,912	-	1,064
Irasburg	Orleans Central S.U.	Orleans	K-8	122	92,541	7,805	759
Lowell	North Country S.U.	Orleans	PK-8	123	88,081	-	716
Morgan	North Country S.U.	Orleans	K-6	37	52,254	-	1,412
Newport Town	North Country S.U.	Orleans	K-6	102	56,454	-	553
Orleans ID	Orleans Central S.U.	Orleans	K-8	108	91,426	-	847
Troy	North Country S.U.	Orleans	K-8	164	31,404	-	191
Lakeview USD #043	Orleans Southwest S.U.	Orleans	K-6	74	77,062	-	1,041
Benson	Addison - Rutland S.U.	Rutland	PK-8	135	70,502	-	522
Middletown Springs	Rutland Southwest S.U.	Rutland	PK-6	70	78,492	-	1,121
Mt. Holly	Rutland - Windsor S.U.	Rutland	K-6	113	45,992	-	407
Killington	Windsor Central S.U.	Rutland	PK-6	98	70,985	-	724
Shrewsbury	Rutland South S.U.	Rutland	PK-6	64	77,303	-	1,208
Sudbury	Rutland Northeast S.U.	Rutland	K-6	33	47,311	-	1,434
Tinmouth	Rutland Southwest S.U.	Rutland	PK-6	51	68,941	-	1,352
Wallingford	Rutland South S.U.	Rutland	K-6	123	23,693	-	193
Wells	Rutland Southwest S.U.	Rutland	K-6	70	79,756	-	1,139
Currier Memorial USD #023	Bennington - Rutland S.U.	Rutland	K-6	106	55,933	-	528





Appendix A: Small Schools Eligible under Current Statute, part 4 (by County, Washington - Windsor)

School District	S.U.	County	Grades	FY10 Enroll	FY2011		Support Grant Per Pupil
					Support Grant	Stability Grant	
Cabot	Washington Northeast S.U.	Washington	PK-12	219	68,384	-	312
Fayston	Washington West S.U.	Washington	PK-6	131	15,163	-	116
Roxbury	Washington South S.U.	Washington	PK-6	49	64,388	-	1,314
Woodbury	Orleans Southwest S.U.	Washington	K-6	51	68,941	-	1,352
Worcester	Washington Central S.U.	Washington	PK-6	81	82,989	-	1,025
Grafton Elementary School	Windham Northeast S.U.	Windham	K-6	76	75,371	-	992
Brookline	Windham Central S.U.	Windham	K-6	34	53,666	-	1,578
Dover	Windham Central S.U.	Windham	PK-6	88	75,222	-	855
Dummerston	Windham Southeast S.U.	Windham	K-8	166	48,166	-	290
Guilford	Windham Southeast S.U.	Windham	K-8	166	30,568	-	184
Halifax	Windham Southwest S.U.	Windham	K-8	58	80,499	-	1,388
Jamaica	Windham Central S.U.	Windham	K-6	61	76,709	45,713	1,258
Marlboro	Windham Central S.U.	Windham	PK-8	95	99,695	-	1,049
Newfane	Windham Central S.U.	Windham	K-6	99	72,472	11,150	732
Townshend	Windham Central S.U.	Windham	K-6	93	77,786	-	836
Wardsboro	Windham Central S.U.	Windham	PK-6	75	81,373	-	1,085
Whitingham	Windham Southwest S.U.	Windham	PK-5	111	20,905	-	188
Windham	Windham Central S.U.	Windham	PK-6	19	40,000	15,238	2,105
Barnard	Windsor Central S.U.	Windsor	K-6	74	80,834	-	1,092
Bridgewater	Windsor Central S.U.	Windsor	K-6	60	74,144	-	1,236
Cavendish	Windsor Southwest S.U.	Windsor	PK-6	129	23,971	-	186
Ludlow	Rutland - Windsor S.U.	Windsor	K-6	136	15,498	-	114
Plymouth	Rutland - Windsor S.U.	Windsor	K-6	13	38,750	11,893	2,981
Pomfret	Windsor Central S.U.	Windsor	K-6	79	77,786	-	985
Reading	Windsor Central S.U.	Windsor	K-6	40	56,491	-	1,412
Rochester	Windsor Northwest S.U.	Windsor	K-12	210	106,664	-	508
Sharon	Orange - Windsor S.U.	Windsor	PK-6	114	55,933	-	491
Stockbridge	Windsor Northwest S.U.	Windsor	PK-6	67	76,523	-	1,142
West Windsor	Windsor Southeast S.U.	Windsor	K-6	77	77,601	-	1,008
Totals				10,032	6,986,413	112,241	696



Small Schools

Legend

-  Small Schools due to geographic necessity
-  Small School
-  Schools
-  Private Academy

0 5 10 Miles

Appendix C: No. 153. An act relating to voluntary school district merger, virtual merger, supervisory union duties, and including secondary students with disabilities in senior year activities and ceremonies.

(H.66)

* * * Small Schools * * *

Sec. 21. RECOMMENDATIONS; SMALL SCHOOLS

On or before January 15, 2011, the commissioner of education shall develop and present to the general assembly a detailed proposal to:

- (1) identify annually the school districts that are “eligible school districts” pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4015 due to geographic necessity, including the criteria that indicate geographic necessity;
- (2) calculate and adjust the level of additional financial support necessary for the districts identified in subdivision (1) of this section to provide an education to resident students in compliance with state education quality standards and other state and federal laws; and
- (3) withdraw small school support gradually from districts that are “eligible school districts” pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4015 as currently enacted but will not be identified as “eligible school districts” pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section.