



NORTH COUNTRY SUPERVISORY UNION

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...committed to the development of Character, Competence, Creativity and Community.

Krista Huling
Chair, VT State Board of Education
2776 VT Route 108N
Jeffersonville, VT 05464

November 17, 2017

Dear Ms. Huling,

This past September, the North Country Supervisory Union Board held a forum on understanding poverty. We did so with the support of the *Public Asset Institute, Voices for Vermont's Children* and noted educational researcher Bill Mathis. School administrators and numerous community partners looked at data and developed a deeper understanding of the wide range of challenges for children and families living in poverty.

We looked at how our schools, community and state are responding and what further steps we need to consider to best support those in need. Subsequently, the NCSU Board reviewed a draft of the resolution included in this mailing, which was then approved at our October board meeting. We ask that you consider our call for public policy that advances equity and addresses the needs of children and families living in poverty.

Most often there is a call for "equity of opportunity" and we recognize that it is important to address gaps that exist within our schools and between our schools. There is value in equality. However, too often there is not a recognition of the "equity of need" that requires additional resources to support the specific context of schools and communities. The *National Equity Project* defines educational equity as "each child receives what he or she needs to develop to his or her full academic and social potential." Therefore, we believe it is essential that the allocation of funding and human resources at a State level reflect an understanding of the needs associated with poverty in our rural communities.

We appreciate that as policy makers, you are committed to addressing issues of poverty and equity across Vermont. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the context of our extended school-community.

Sincerely,



John A. Castle
NCSU Superintendent of Schools

Enc.

NCSU Resolution of Commitment to Equity and Addressing Issues of Poverty in Vermont Schools
NCSU Fall Forum Announcement

North Country Supervisory Union Board of Directors Resolution of:

Commitment to Equity and Addressing Issues of Poverty in Vermont Schools

We, the undersigned, the Board members of NCSU consent and agree that the following resolution was made on October 26, 2017 at North Country Supervisory Union Central Office in Newport, Vermont.

We do hereby consent to the adoption of the following as it was adopted at a regularly called meeting of the Board of Directors of North Country Supervisory Union.

The Board of Directors determines that:

Whereas the North Country Supervisory Union Board and member districts are committed to equity within our schools and across our supervisory union, we firmly believe the Governor of Vermont, State Legislature and State Board of Education share in our commitment to addressing equity of opportunity and need across the state.

Therefore, it is resolved, that we at North Country Supervisory Union, call for public policy that will advance equity and specifically address the needs of children and families living in poverty by:

- 1. Increasing the weighting for poverty in the state-wide funding formula**
- 2. Ensuring the preservation of small schools grants**
- 3. Providing coordination and resources for increased access to mental health services through the Agency of Human Services**
- 4. Providing resources through the Agency of Education for training and technical assistance to advance best practices for supporting children and families living in poverty**

On behalf of the NCSU Board and member District Boards, the officers of the NCSU Board and Local Board Chairs respectively authorize this resolution to be provided to the Governor, State Legislature and State Board of Education of Vermont.

NCSU Board Officers:

Signature: Steven L. Mason Printed Name: Steven L. Mason Date 11-3-2017

Signature: Peter Markovits Printed Name: Peter Markovits Date 11/7/17

Local Board Representatives:

Signature: Rosemary Mayhew Printed Name: Rosemary Mayhew Date 10/26/17
School District: NCUHS

Signature: Sarah Hardin Printed Name: Sarah Hardin Date 10/26/17
School District: Newport Town

Signature: Gaston P. Bithalon Printed Name: GASTON P. BITHALON Date 10/26/17
School District: TROY

Signature: Katie Mientka Printed Name: Katie Mientka Date 10/26/17
School District: Brighton

Signature: Jason Brueck Printed Name: Jason Brueck Date 10/26/17
School District: Charleston

Signature: Emily Micknack Printed Name: Emily Micknack Date 10/26/17
School District: Derby

Signature: Kevin Amyot Printed Name: Kevin Amyot Date 10/26/17
School District: Westfield

Signature: Kathleen Nolan Printed Name: Kathleen Nolan Date 10/26/17
School District: Newport City Elementary

Signature: Lincoln Petell Printed Name: Lincoln Petell Date 10/26/17
School District: Holland

Signature: Sally Rivard Printed Name: Sally Rivard Date 10/26/17
School District: Ady

Signature: Scott Boskind Printed Name: Scott Boskind Date 11/3/17
School District: NCUHS & NCUHS (Derby)

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date _____
School District: _____

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date _____
School District: _____