

To: VT State Board of Education
From: Carin Ewing Park, Chair, Barnard School Board
Date: June 8, 2018

If you approve the metrics as discussed at your last meeting, you *will be* sacrificing educational opportunities for some of the least advantaged children in the State, closing many rural schools and forcing children to travel to distant schools that do not support them as well as their community school.

Current Small Schools Grant funding is \$7.6 million out of the \$1627.0 million spending from the Ed Fund... less than 1/2% of the budget.

We are responsible for the reasonably foreseen consequences of our decisions. Is sacrificing the well-being of Vermont's neediest children worth the savings? And given Act 60, would your decision, indeed, be lawful? You have an opportunity today -- and a responsibility -- to do no harm. I hope you have the courage and the integrity to take it