

**Testimony to Vermont State Board of Education on Small Schools Grant Metrics**  
**Carolyn Partridge, Chair, Windham School Board**  
**June 8, 2018**

Thank you, Madame Chair and Board Members, for this opportunity to testify regarding Small Schools Grant Program metrics. I am Carolyn Partridge and I Chair the Windham Elementary School Board.

In recent days, I've had the opportunity to talk with some of the authors of Act 60 and the Small Schools Grant legislation. My tenure in the General Assembly began the biennium after Act 60 was enacted but my understanding was affirmed that the Small Schools Grant Program was created to remedy a consequence of the Act 60 formula. That is to say, funding based on per-pupil spending would have had a negative impact on small schools, which do not have the economy of scale that larger schools enjoy.

The goal of Act 60 was to provide an equal opportunity for education for all Vermont children. Essentially eliminating the Small Schools Grant by creating additional requirements other than population size will have a negative impact on the opportunity for education for the students at the Windham Elementary School as well as other small schools. This will create an environment that the Brigham decision and Act 60 were meant to remedy. This is not a "How Far Are You From Another School" Grant, it's a Small Schools Grant and it was created for that purpose.

To speak more directly to the situation in Windham, our location, roads, driving conditions, and weather, that is to say, the factors that geographically isolate us, have not changed. If, due to some change in requirements, Windham lost our Small Schools Grant, it would have an extremely negative impact on the educational opportunity for Windham students and therefore, violate the intent of Act 60 and Brigham.

Also, since I am here before you, I want to personally invite the Board to hold its Southern Regional Meeting at the Windham Elementary School in September. We would be delighted to host you and I would be happy to give you a school bus ride down and back up Windham Hill so you can see for yourself, albeit in good weather, the driving conditions and travel routes we contend with.

Thank you again for the opportunity, Madame Chair.