



To: Vermont State Board of Education  
From: Nicole L. Mace, Executive Director  
Re: Small Schools Grants Eligibility  
Date: May 16, 2018

**Officers**

**Geo Honigford**  
President  
Royalton

**Clarence Haynes**  
Vice President  
Middletown Springs

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West Burke

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Member-At-Large  
Norwich

At the May meeting of the Vermont School Boards Association Board of Directors, the Board voted to adopt the following statement on the value of Vermont's rural schools and some factors the VSBA Board would like the State Board to consider as it establishes metrics for continued eligibility for small schools grants:

*Whereas Vermont's schools are increasingly vulnerable due to demographic and fiscal challenges that are often outside of their control;*

*And whereas small schools grants help ensure that public schools exist in rural communities;*

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*And whereas these schools are often the heart of the community:*

*The VSBA Board of Directors asks that the State Board of Education keep in mind that some districts in Vermont were unable to merge under Act 46 due to incompatible operating structures or lack of willing partners.*

*The VSBA Board of Directors asks that the State Board of Education establish metrics and a process for continuing the small schools grants program that support the following goals:*

- *Equity & Fairness*
- *Transparency*
- *Predictability*
- *Preservation of public education in rural communities*