

Designing Our Future

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The System is Too Complex

1. Vermont's education system is overly complex relative to its scale and number of students.
2. This complexity is interfering with our ability to ensure quality and equity across the system.
3. This complexity is the chief cause of our inefficiency.

The System Needs to be Designed

Representative Strategy	Design Strategy
All stakeholders in process to ensure buy-in	Small design team, based on expertise and experience
Useful when the solution is already in the repertoire of solutions	More useful in creating a new solution
End product is consistent with current practice	End product is a new prototype which is then shared with stakeholders for feedback and refinement
Success is a re-affirmation of common values	Success is the achievement of the articulated design elements
Typical approach used to create VTED policy	New approach necessary to address adaptive challenges

Process to Date

- Version 1.0 – brainstorming among cabinet policy team
- Single district used as most extreme example of a simplified system
- Version 2.0 – includes V 1.0 and additional content developed by AOE admin team members in response to the prompt:

To what extent would a GSSD model create opportunities for . .

Design Elements from Version 1.0

- The system should be flexible enough to meet the personal learning aspirations of each student.
- The system should be better integrated with the social service delivery system.
- The system should put an increased focus on early learning and care.
- The system should put a focus on teacher quality.
- The system should support the use of quality data.
- The system should support a more efficient and responsive approach to curriculum and professional development.
- The system should support the broader social and economic development of our state.
- The system should be more nimble, efficient, and effective.

Immediate Process Going Forward

- New version will be published as WordPress blog posts, go live by 4/19
- Submissions being solicited from groups to embellish overall design, and to cover cradle-to-career vision
- Continue to identify opportunities through simplification

Open Questions

- To what extent is “complexity and simplification” a useful and/or sufficient lens?
- Are the identified opportunities compelling enough to make a case for the system needing to be designed?
- If so, how to develop design elements that can address our adaptive challenges?