



Windham Northeast Supervisory Union

*"Creating an Inclusive Community through Personalized Student
Engagement."*

Athens Grafton Rockingham Westminster

April 14, 2021

Mr. John Carroll, Chair
State Board of Education
1 National Life Drive, Davis 5
Montpelier, Vermont 05620

Sent via electronic mail to john.carroll@vermont.gov
Copies to Maureen.Gaidys@vermont.gov; Suzanne.Sprague@vermont.gov

Dear Chairman Carroll and members of the Board:

Please find attached responses to questions posed in Section C of your recent letter to Mr. Jack Bryar, Chair of the Windham Northeast Union Elementary School District (WNUESD). We understand this information is needed in order to consider a request by the voters of Westminster to withdraw from the WNUESD. We further understand that initial consideration of this request will occur at a meeting of the State Board of Education on April 21.

I would like to add that if this withdrawal is approved, Westminster elementary students will continue to receive educational services within the same educational setting and from the same highly skilled educators who presently serve Westminster children. Pre-K through grade 6 students will continue to attend Westminster Center School. Grades 7 and 8 will continue to be offered school choice. Grades 9 – 12 will attend Bellows Falls Union High School. These schools are all part of the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union for which I serve as Superintendent, and all are in compliance with rules and regulations adopted by the Board pertaining to educational programs.

I plan to be in attendance on April 21 should you or members of the Board have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher Pratt
Superintendent of Schools



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1. The grades for which the WNUESD operated a school in Westminster during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

K-6

2. The number of WNUESD students in each grade, kindergarten-grade 8, who resided in Westminster in the 2019-2020 school year and who currently reside in Westminster.

K-	16	5-	28
1-	15	6-	16
2-	14	7-	37
3-	19	8-	26
4-	25		

3. Whether it is anticipated that, when the Westminster School District is reconstituted, it will continue to provide prekindergarten-grade 8 education by operating a school that offers kindergarten-grade 6 and paying tuition for prekindergarten and grades 7-8.

We do not anticipate a change in the grade levels or tuition.

4. If it is anticipated that the Westminster School District will seek voter approval to begin operating grades or paying tuition for grades that differ from the current pattern, then:

a. The grade(s) for which the Westminster School District is likely to change the current pattern of operating and tuitioning.

No anticipated change in the current pattern of operating and tuitioning.

b. The school year in which is it likely that a change from operating to tuitioning, or from tuitioning to operating, would occur.

No anticipated change.

5. (a) The names of all public and independent schools offering kindergarten-grade 8, or some subset of those grades, that are located within a "reasonable" driving distance from students living in Westminster, and (b) for each identified school, whether the school has confirmed that it



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would have adequate capacity to enroll Westminster students on a tuition basis in each grade that the potential receiving school operates.

We do not provide a tuition voucher for K-6th grade students. We do not have a formal confirmation, but our students have been historically accepted to the following schools:

Compass - No confirmation

Central Elementary School, Bellows Falls – some, not all grades K- 4

Saxtons River Elementary School, Saxtons River – some, not all grades K- 4

Bellows Fall Middle School – grades 5 – 8

Hilltop Montessori - No confirmation

Putney Grammar - No confirmation

Putney Central - No confirmation

Respectfully,

Christopher Pratt
Superintendent of Schools