VERMONT

From: Krista Huling, Chair, State Board of Education
Re: List Required by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 49, Sec. 9 – Geographic Isolation; Small Schools Grants
Date: September 25, 2017

Until July 1, 2019, districts continue to qualify for small school grants (SSGs) in the same way that SSG eligibility has always been determined under 16 V.S.A. § 4015 – by a strict calculation of size with no reference to geographic isolation (GI).

For SSGs awarded on July 1, 2019 and after, small schools that are not part of a unified union school district will apply annually under the eligibility criteria that will then be in place – including as a GI district under whatever metrics the SBE adopts by July 1, 2018.

The decision that the State Board of Education (SBE) made at its meeting on Wednesday, September 20 was a **preliminary determination** that gives an **indication** of the **direction** in which the SBE will be heading **when it creates the more finely nuanced metrics it is required to produce before July 1, 2018**.   Similarly, the **districts** included on the list resulting from the September 20 decision are an **indication** of districts that are **likely to be considered GI** when, **beginning in FY20**, the SBE **applies those yet-to-be created metrics**.

The SBE's **preliminary determinatio**n made on September 20 would result in the following list of districts for which the travel time between the small school and the nearest school operating the same grades **exceeds 15 minutes**:

- Brighton Elementary School
- Canaan Schools
- Chelsea School (if remains PK-12 operating)
- Craftsbury Schools
- Marlboro Elementary School
- Rochester School (if remains PK-12 operating)
- Windham Elementary School

This list will likely change when the State Board adopts the more nuanced metrics by July 1, 2018 and this list will not be used to make decisions regarding SSGs.