

**From:** [syeager790@aol.com](mailto:syeager790@aol.com) <[syeager790@aol.com](mailto:syeager790@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 9:04 AM  
**To:** Samuelson, Jennifer <[Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Samuelson@vermont.gov)>  
**Subject:** Secretary of Education

Dear Ms. Samuelson:

I am a Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine, and a 40 year Vermont resident who raised two children in the state.

It is my understanding that a search for a new Vermont Secretary of Education is being initiated. You may be aware that recent reading scores for Vermont students have been disappointing, and have further declined as the result of the pandemic. The ability to read is strongly associated with success in all aspects of adult life, and children who struggle with reading are recognized to be at risk for a variety of adverse outcomes. The current curriculum in our state fails to incorporate widely recognized best practices for teaching reading, and lags behind the majority of other states in utilizing evidence-based instruction.

I believe that our next Secretary of Education should embrace adoption of science-of-reading-based instruction in Vermont, and that this should be an important criterion in your consideration of candidates.

Sincerely,

Scott B. Yeager, M.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics