

From: Allen, Susan [Susan.Allen@vermont.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:56 PM
To: Pepper, James
Subject: FW: Vermont State Board of Education - A Resolution on Equitable, Efficient and Effective Educational Reform in Vermont
Attachments: edu-sbe-resolution-31516.pdf

FYI. Weird.

From: Brackin, Stephanie
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 1:20 PM
To: dsharpe@leg.state.vt.us; acummings@leg.state.vt.us
Cc: mzunder@leg.state.vt.us; kbruno@leg.state.vt.us; Dudley, Jahala <Jahala.Dudley@vermont.gov>; Coriell, Scott <Scott.Coriell@vermont.gov>; Allen, Susan <Susan.Allen@vermont.gov>; dgiambatista@leg.state.vt.us; 'speaker@leg.state.vt.us' <speaker@leg.state.vt.us>; 'jcampbell@leg.state.vt.us' <jcampbell@leg.state.vt.us>; Holcombe, Rebecca <Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov>; Plude, Rebecca <Rebecca.Plude@vermont.gov>; Mathis, William <William.Mathis@vermont.gov>; Morse, Stephan A <Stephan.A.Morse@vermont.gov>; Stirewalt, Robert <Robert.Stirewalt@vermont.gov>; Dover, Haley <Haley.Dover@vermont.gov>; Brackin, Stephanie <Stephanie.Brackin@vermont.gov>
Subject: Vermont State Board of Education - A Resolution on Equitable, Efficient and Effective Educational Reform in Vermont

Sent on behalf of the Vermont State Board of Education -

Dear Legislators:

Attached please find a resolution unanimously adopted by the state board of education at its regular meeting of March 15, 2016. We are aware of and appreciate the state's efforts to limit new programs. We are also aware of your efforts to improve existing laws to manage our limited resources as wisely and economically as possible.

Two recent policy issues stand out as needing prioritized attention, the first is that the pre-school law is a voucher subsidy for the middle class and the affluent. This will only exacerbate our achievement gap and equity problems. It could prove to be the basis for legal action against the state. The second is that the dual enrollment bill is also a subsidy for the wealthy. While a goal may have been to encourage higher education for the less affluent, in practice, it is proving to be the opposite.

We think that these issues are paramount and need to be addressed quickly. Otherwise, a new constituency will form with the purpose of protecting what will rapidly be seen as an entitlement.

If you would like members of the state board to discuss these issues with you, we would be glad to do so.

Sincerely,

William J. Mathis, Ph.D.
Chair, Legislative Committee
Vermont State Board of Education
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A Resolution on Equitable, Efficient and Effective Educational Reform in Vermont

Vermont State Board of Education

March 15, 2016

WHEREAS, universal access to pre-school is one of the most effective and cost-efficient educational reforms and is vital to the healthy growth and development of youth, and

WHEREAS, flexible pathways is an important incentive to encourage enrollment in post-secondary education, assist students fulfill their ambitions, and to advance the economy, and

WHEREAS, the pre-school law (Act 166) structurally establishes a disequalizing system, and does not sufficiently address the needs of our less advantaged children, and

WHEREAS the dual enrollment law has likewise had unintended side effects which results in not equitably providing benefits to our neediest children, and

WHEREAS, without immediate actions, the inequities will become institutionalized resulting in thwarted opportunities for children and harm to the state's society and common good, and

WHEREAS, while schools enjoy advantageous staffing patterns, the state has over-extended its limited support capacity thereby threatening the viability of all initiatives

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Vermont State Board of Education requests the General Assembly to immediately address and resolve the structured inequities in these laws, and

Be it further resolved,

That this action be prioritized by the appropriate committees of the General Assembly, and

Be it further resolved,

That new initiatives beyond these areas and Act 46 be postponed.