



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Appropriations
From: Senate Committee on Education
Date: February 19, 2021
Subject: Appropriations requested in the next round of appropriations

We are writing to request the following appropriations be included in the next appropriations bill.

Support students and families so they have a safe, restorative summer, and one that assists students in transitioning back to school and addresses possible academic deficits

1. Direct \$500,000.00 to support a collaboration between the Agency of Education and the Department of Health to educate parents on the signs of depression and suicide and to provide information and resources for assistance.
2. Direct \$500,000.00 to the Agency of Education and the Department of Health to make certain that children and families have access to nutritious foods throughout the summer.
3. Direct \$500,000.00 to the Agency of Education to instruct school districts and supervisory unions to address the needs of students who have been truant during the pandemic and integrate them into a supportive school culture.
4. Direct \$4 million for the Afterschool for All grants program to provide grants for children to attend summer and afterschool programs.

Improve access to higher education

Expand the McClure Foundation's successful work last year with an investment of \$3 million for Advancement Grants under 16 V.S.A. § 2846 to provide up to three free classes this summer or fall at any of the Vermont State Colleges for any high school senior and for any Vermont resident who is seeking to transition to a new career or to enhance their work or academic skills.

Improve literacy

The SBAC test is taken every year by Vermont students in grades three through eight. Only 50 percent of third graders were deemed proficient in the 2019 ELA SBAC, which measures student abilities in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and research and inquiry. This proficiency percentage is between 50 and 57 percent for the remaining grades. We request an appropriation of \$3 million for the Agency of Education to distribute funds to school districts and supervisory unions for literacy training for teachers.

Thank you for considering our appropriation requests. We would be pleased to discuss our requests with you and to provide you with policy language related to these requests if needed.