

From: Holcombe, Rebecca [Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 11:29 AM
To: Pepper, James
Subject: Fwd: A problem to fix...

This is the kind of email we get.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "AOE - Info Ed" <AOE.EDInfo@vermont.gov>
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2016 at 11:20 AM -0400
Subject: FW: A problem to fix...
To: "Holcombe, Rebecca" <Rebecca.Holcombe@vermont.gov>, "O'Shaughnessy, Clare" <Clare.OShaughnessy@vermont.gov>, "Talbot, Bill" <Bill.Talbot@vermont.gov>

Good morning,

I refer to the below e-mail.

May I ask you to let me know who will handle this? If you wish me to forward along to someone else for handling, please let me know.

Thank you,
Suzanne

Suzanne Sprague
Vermont Agency of Education, Secretary's Office
219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre VT 05641
Tel: (802)479-1030 Fax: (802)479-1835
suzanne.sprague@vermont.gov

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: Due to the nature of the Secretary's duties to the State of Vermont and its citizens, there are occasions when the Secretary needs to cancel and/or postpone meetings or events in order to attend to pressing state matters. Please keep this in mind when planning for events.

From: Susan Coddair [mailto:susan.coddair@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2016 10:23 AM
To: AOE - Info Ed
Subject: A problem to fix...

To Whom it May Concern,

I grew up in Vermont and completed 1-12 grades in the public school system of Morrisville. I then went on to earn a college degree as well as a master's degree. As an adult now in my 40's and having settled in Vermont I cannot sit around and watch this happen anymore without saying anything to those of you that run our education system:

Wealthy out-of-state families are taking pure advantage of Vermont's school voucher program at the expense of our local children.

Wealthy out of state parents routinely subsidize their children's tuition expenses to attend Vermont's private schools and ski academies on the public dime. In my opinion, that dime should be there for our own state's underprivileged children. Here is exactly what happens: They will sign a lease to rent a luxury ski homes (for \$20-50k a season!), then carefully arrange for just one utility bill to be addressed in their name so that they may go to the DMV and obtain a Vermont driver's license. I understand this entitles them to a \$16k tuition stipend!!

This scam makes me ill- especially as I hear that Vermont's public schools are so hard up that we need to think about consolidating school districts. Some working class kid is going to ride a bus for 2 hours a day while some privileged kid from the top 2% income bracket takes the \$16k stipend! Not fair. Somebody in your department needs to wake up to this scam. At least make the out-of-staters prove that they are low income enough to take the stipend, and I suspect the vast majority of these people have homes worth millions out of state while they rent luxury vacation homes in Vermont for a rate roughly equivalent to the median income in our state. And then, they boast to their friends and share the secret of how to bleed our state to subsidize their child's tuition to an expensive private academy. It sure makes our state look stupid.

Please fix this problem. We pay our painfully high Vermont taxes and expect they should take care of our own people, especially the average and the needy.

Sincerely,

Susan Coddair
Dorset, VT