

From: Murphy, Reeva [Reeva.Murphy@vermont.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 12:52 PM
To: Schatz, Ken; Pepper, James; Cohen, Hal; Dragon, Paul; Wisdom, Leslie; Sullivan, Allan
Subject: FW: SoVT Act 166 Coordinators Concerns
Attachments: Pre-K Coordinators Concerns v2.docx

A good summary of district frustrations

From: Rogers, Kate
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 12:43 PM
To: Edwards, Karin <Karin.Edwards@vermont.gov>; Riegel-Garrett, Melissa <Melissa.Riegel-Garrett@vermont.gov>; McCarthy, Katie <Katie.McCarthy@vermont.gov>; 'Sherry Carlson' <scarlson380@comcast.net>; Allen, Ben <Ben.Allen@vermont.gov>; James, Brad <Brad.James@vermont.gov>
Cc: Fowler, Amy <Amy.Fowler@vermont.gov>; Murphy, Reeva <Reeva.Murphy@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: SoVT Act 166 Coordinators Concerns

Hi all,

Today I received this letter from PreK Coordinators in Southern VT. The letter expresses their concerns about PreK impact on their local efforts to implement.

Kate

Kate B. Rogers

Early Education Program Manager/619 Coordinator

VT Agency of Education

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From: Janice Crow [<mailto:jcrow@wsesu.net>]
Sent: Thursday, October 27, 2016 11:23 AM
To: Rogers, Kate
Subject: SoVT Act 166 Coordinators Concerns

Kate: Here is a brief summary of the concerns, impacts on Programs, families and SD. (Attached and pasted below) This list is from 7 SU/SD (only 6 have been able to put Official names on.)

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Thanks for your support.
Jan

Southern Vt. Act 166 Pre-K Coordinators Regional Mtg. 10.26.16

Janice Stockman: Windham SE SU

Jennifer Keenan Wolfe: Windham NE SU

Kathy Rapp, Windham Southwest SU

Janice Crow: Windsor Southeast SU

Gladys Collins: Springfield School District

Stephanie Racz: Two Rivers SU

At our regularly scheduled Pre-K Coordinators' meeting, the following concerns were raised regarding the provision of high quality Pre-K under Act 166:

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Major Concerns:

- Due to conflicting information from July – October regarding fingerprint and background checks requirements, it has been impossible for SU's, school districts and pre-k partners to fully comply with the expectation of 100% staff to have fingerprint supported background checks completed and documentation received in a timely manner, despite the fact that teachers and staff in the majority of programs have been fingerprinted by the beginning of the school year.
- There are thousands of children across Vermont who have been receiving 10 hours a week of public pre-k in prequalified programs since the beginning of the school year. These programs have signed partnership agreements with numerous school districts and/or SU's.
- Given the conflicting information, there are also a number of public and private Pre-K Programs, that have partnered with or been run by school districts in previous years and been fingerprinted through a school district, that have been providing Pre-K under the assumption that they had a year to complete CDD fingerprinting.

- Additionally there are partnerships with non-prequalified programs, ones where the school district supplies the licensed teacher. These programs have fallen to “the bottom of the background clearance “list” and their background checks and fingerprints haven’t been processed at all.

- The most recent information from state agencies essentially prohibit schools and SU’s from meeting their contractual obligation outlined in the partnership agreements to pay for 10 hours a week of public pre-k since the start of the school year.
 - This puts partner programs in financial jeopardy.

 - This negatively impacts families and the thousands of children enrolled in partner programs. Without the anticipated full tuition support, many of these children would not have access to pre-k.

- The recent Act 166 relief recommendations about compressing weeks or extending the school year to meet the intent of 350 hours does not address the many complicated structures, schedules and staffing issues that prequalified (public and private) programs addressed in order to support families to access public pre-k .

- Finally, we’re concerned about the many ramifications that SU’s and school districts across the state will face by not counting pre-k children. There are potentially large numbers of children that will not be counted in district ADM. Just the data entry work of exiting all of last year’s pre-k students in anticipation of re-enrolling them as their program’s fingerprints are verified is daunting.

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"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you will help them to become what they are capable of being.

Janice M. Crow, Director
WSSU Early Childhood Programs <http://www.wsesu.net/ecp-home>
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Windsor, VT 05089
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Southern Vt. Act 166 Pre-K Coordinators Regional Mtg. 10.26.16

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