

# VERMONT

## Agency of Education

# 2017

## BACK TO SCHOOL

# BLACKBOARD

*Represents 2015-2016 data unless otherwise noted.*

### MISSION

The Agency of Education provides leadership, support, and oversight to ensure that the Vermont education system enables all students to have the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in further education, as well as economic and civic life.

### CONTACT

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**ACCESS | OPPORTUNITY | EQUITY**

## FAST FACTS

**88,854**

Total Publicly Funded Students

**8,258**

Number of Licensed VT Educators

**316**

Total Public Schools and Technical Centers

**285**

School Boards



38% Receive  
Subsidized Meals



16% Receive  
Special Services\*



1,591 Limited English  
Proficiency



1,124 Homeless  
Students

**\$18,427**

Per Pupil Equalized Spending

**\$57,138**

Average Total Teacher Salary

**\$1,562,440**

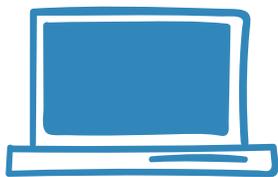
Invested in Local Food by Vermont Schools

*\* Special Services include IEPs, 504 and other services.*

# KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Education Week's Quality Counts 2017 Report** placed Vermont **3rd** overall in a national ranking. Highlights of the report include: Vermont ranked **4th** overall for early foundations and ranked **5th** in the nation for current K-12 achievement.

The **2015 National Assessment of Education Progress**, known as the Nation's Report Card or NAEP, show Vermont students outperform national average test scores.



**72%** of schools have a **1:1 computer program** for students in some or all grades.



Four year **graduation rate** is **88%**. The six-year graduation rate is 92%.



**2,287 college courses** taken by Vermont students through the **Dual Enrollment** program.

114 of our 5,043 Vermont CTE students attended the **2017 Skills USA Conference**, winning **5 gold medals and 1 silver medal**.

Nearly 50% of our students in attendance placed in the top 10 of their skill competition.



**82% of all Vermont kindergarten students**,

were identified as kindergarten-ready through a collection of multidimensional educator observations.



**83% of Vermont school districts** participate in **Farm-to-School** activities, including 52 districts, 78 schools, and 12,347



students which is nearly double the national rate of 42%.



In 2017 WalletHub ranked **Vermont public schools 5th nationally**, indicating

Vermont had some of the highest reading test scores and the lowest student to teacher ratio.

# VERMONT EDUCATION GOALS



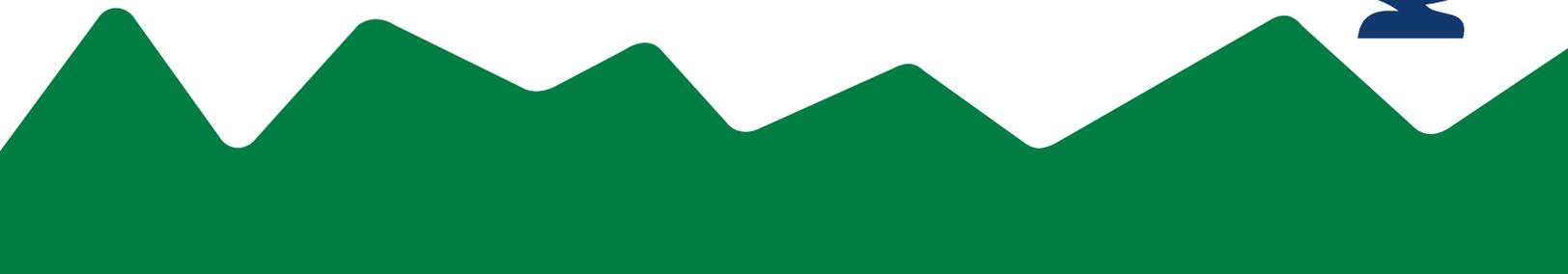
**Affordability:** Helping communities review school governance gives every education system the opportunity to self-evaluate and work locally towards getting the greatest value for our children, from cradle to career.

**Growing the Economy:** Working with the administration and state partners to provide young people with both the tools and opportunity to make informed decisions about their education helps students achieve their goals and contribute to a prosperous economic future in Vermont.



**Supporting our Vulnerable Students:** Providing schools with help and resources to develop individualized systems of support ensures students get what they need so they can take advantage of Vermont's learning opportunities.

**Equity:** Working to ensure that Vermont's public education system operates to provide equity in opportunity so our schools are places where all students can focus on learning and the skills they need to thrive in civic and economic life, while strengthening our democracy.



# ESSA & the VERMONT STATE PLAN

In addition to meeting the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Vermont State Plan reflects the education priorities of Vermont to 1) support the most vulnerable Vermont students; 2) prepare students to be members of a growing Vermont economy, and; 3) frame proposals that will be affordable to implement and maintain.

## Measuring School Quality

Vermont has developed Education Quality Reviews (EQR) to ensure Vermont's education priorities are met and to assess a school's success in meeting Vermont's Education Quality Standards. Vermont will evaluate the five measures below in all of our public schools.

## Continuous Improvement

Using feedback from the EQR, the Agency of Education assists schools in developing a Continuous Improvement Plan which will identify a way for school systems to improve their educational practices and student outcomes to help improve school quality.

## Education Quality Reviews



Academic Proficiency



Personalization



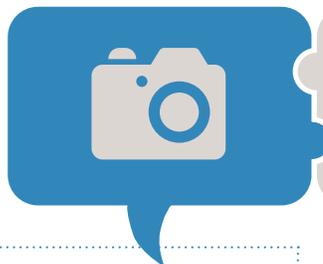
Safe, Healthy Schools



High-Quality Staffing



Investment Priorities



**Education Quality Standards**  
Provides a policy baseline when identifying data points.

Frames

**Annual Snapshot**  
State and federal school and LEA accountability data.

Informs

**Integrated Field Review**  
Collaborative site review to identify commendations and recommendations.

Produces

**Continuous Improvement Plans**  
Addressing needs and recommendations through action planning.

The Vermont Agency of Education **collaborated with roughly 2000 stakeholders** statewide to draft the **Vermont State Plan** in response to the requirements of the Education Quality Standards and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



# INTEGRATED FIELD REVIEW STATE-LEVEL REPORT

The state-level Integrated Field Review Report summarizes the findings from site visits by a team of educators and students through observations, interviews, artifact review and local data review. From these findings, commendations and recommendations are formulated. Below are the state-level commendations for the pilot Integrated Field Reviews in 2016 - 2017.

## Commendations



### Academic Proficiency

1. There is evidence that SU/SDs are developing coordinated curriculum and local assessment systems that are used at the elementary level using staff input.
2. There is evidence the SU/SDs are deepening implementation of Proficiency Based Learning while grappling with challenges like Proficiency Based Learning



### Personalization

1. Schools are beginning to implement personalized learning and personalized learning plans at the elementary level.
2. Schools are beginning to change their schedules to add flextime to accommodate individual student needs.



### Safe, Healthy Schools

1. There is evidence that most schools are in varying stages of implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Support framework.
2. Schools are seen as places of high value for students, staff and community where students are reported to be engaged, appropriate and respectful.



### High-Quality Staffing

1. Some SU/SDs include student representation on hiring committees.
2. SU/SDs use comprehensive frameworks and state and national standards for teacher and leader evaluations.



### Investment Priorities

1. All SU/SDs have committed to effectively communicating their budget process and decisions to stakeholders, creating transparency and accountability.
2. School systems have planned and purchased the tools to support an educational experience that can be rich with technological experiences.

# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Dear Vermonters,

In all our work during the past year, the Agency of Education has focused on four priorities: quality, equity, alignment with state priorities, and sustainability given the state's current fiscal capacity. Governor Scott's priorities for the coming year are affordability, growing the economy and taking care of our most vulnerable students.

These priorities provide focus and take our current work to the next level. In 2018, we will continue process improvement efforts, strengthen pathways to high growth and high wage Vermont economic sectors, strengthen our schools and support our most vulnerable students.

We are fortunate in that on average, our students are consistently among the highest performing in the nation. So far, we have maintained strong performance outcomes on traditional measures of academic skills, even as we have required our schools to broaden their focus to include flexible pathways, creativity, health and wellness, technology education, and applied learning.

Like anyone and any sector, we have things we can do better. But at the end of the day, we have much to celebrate and much on which we can build a strong and vibrant future for our children, our schools and our communities. As we work to improve, we will build on what we do well.

As we face change with the new federal administration, I will work to keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible to avoid undermining our successes and progress. The Agency will continue our efforts to grow the strong educational foundation that Vermont already has.

My number one goal as Secretary of Education is to ensure every child has equitable access to a high-quality, affordable education system. The Agency is using the reauthorization of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act to reboot and reorganize support for schools with a focused approach to evaluating school quality, holding ourselves accountable for improvement, and investing in the professional capital necessary at the local level to transform systems.

Thank you for your support for our efforts to improve equity and learning. Your support is essential to our efforts to improve quality, affordability, and equity in our education system.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Holcombe, Ed.D.  
Secretary of Education