

Mission

The State Board and Department of Education provide leadership, support and oversight to ensure that the Vermont public education system enables each student to be successful.

Vision

Every learner completes his or her public education with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college, continuing education, careers, and citizenship. The public education system provides flexible learning environments rich with 21st century tools that promote self-development, academic achievement, and active engagement in learning. It operates within a framework of high expectations for every learner with support from educators, families and the community.

Goals

Goal One - Educational Leadership: All levels of Vermont's public education system are guided by effective, transformative educational leaders.

Goal Two - Learning Expectations: Standards and expectations define the knowledge and skills essential for all PreK-12 learners to be successful in the 21st century.

Goal Three - Instructional Practices and Environments: Learning environments and instructional practices support multiple ways of learning, yield deep understanding and application of essential knowledge and skills, and ensure the success of every student.

Goal Four - PK-16 Partnerships: PK-16 education partnerships facilitate improved student success, by strengthening kindergarten readiness, increasing student engagement and relevance in K-12 education, and improving postsecondary aspiration, continuation and completion rates for all learners.

Goal Five - Policy and Governance: State and local policy and governance facilitate attainment of the educational practices and student outcomes articulated in the Vision statement.

State Board of Education 2010-2011 Meeting Dates

August 17, 2011

September 20, 2011

October 18, 2011

November 15, 2011

December 20, 2011

January 17, 2012

February 21, 2012

March 20, 2012

April 17, 2012

May 15, 2012

June 19, 2012



Vermont Department of Education

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July 2011

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WELCOME

*Fayneese Miller, Chair South Burlington
Kathy Larsen, Vice Chair Wilmington
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Laura Harris Williston
Judith Livingston Manchester
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Stephan Morse Newfane
Sean-Marie Oller Bennington
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VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner
William Talbott, Chief Financial Officer*

WELCOME TO OUR MEETING

The Vermont State Board of Education welcomes you to its meeting and hopes this information provides an understanding of how meetings are conducted and how you can participate.

Each month on the third Tuesday and occasionally more frequently, the board meets in various locations around the state, preferably in schools. When the legislature is in session, meetings are usually held in the Montpelier area.

The board feels it is important to spend time discussing educational issues so that it is better informed and prepared to make decisions.

The types of agenda items are:

Updates – These items include introductions, announcements, board member and commissioner updates and reports. Updates are usually brief and do not involve discussion, with the exception of questions other board members may have of the commissioner following his/her report.

Public to be Heard – As part of its effort to increase communications, the board dedicates a portion of its monthly agenda to hearing from constituents concerning current and evolving policy issues that are within the purview of the board and are not on the current month's agenda. The board invites individuals or a representative from organizations to speak during the "Public to be Heard" item at each board meeting. Anyone interested in speaking to the board during this portion of the meeting should contact the

chair, vice chair, or the commissioner in advance of the meeting. Presentations should be concise and may be accompanied by brief written summaries of oral comments.

Discussion Items – Next to these agenda items you will see "DISCUSS." These items usually include some introductory remarks by the commissioner or the presenter. The board will have prepared for the discussion by reviewing materials prior to the meeting. The format allows for participation by both the board and the public. If a number of people in the audience wish to participate, the chair may structure the time, rather than the usual more flexible format. Following introductory remarks, the chair will ask board members if they have any questions or comments. After the board has had opportunity for discussion, the chair will ask if any members of the public wish to speak. During these discussions, various aspects of the agenda item might be addressed. The commissioner and department staff may also participate in the discussion.

Action Items – Next to these items you will see "VOTE." A discussion will be conducted in the same manner as with discussion items on the agenda. The public will have an opportunity to participate.

A motion will be made and seconded by members of the board. Once a motion is being acted upon, the public will not give further input. Following discussion, the board will vote unless the item is tabled.

Consent Agenda – Consent agenda items are items that normally need only minimal discussion. Some of the reasons that discussion might not be necessary are:

1. The item was discussed at a previous meeting and the board felt it would be ready for a vote at its next meeting.
2. The item relates to the normal business of the department in complying with law and state board rules, such as capital construction and independent school approval.

The board approves the consent agenda with comment, which allows board members to make remarks or ask questions about any item on the consent agenda prior to the vote. If a board member wishes to have in-depth discussion prior to the vote, they may request to have the item removed from the consent agenda. Items removed from the consent agenda may be voted individually.

Agenda Setting – At the end of every meeting, the board takes time to discuss what will be on future agendas. Agenda items include actions necessary to comply with state and federal law, as well as work being done by the board and the department. The current month's meeting agenda and packet materials may be accessed electronically at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#packet>

Executive Session – Occasionally the board goes into executive session. Sometimes people who have a connection to the item being discussed are invited into the executive session. The board will always state the purpose for the executive session in its vote to enter executive session. No action can be taken while in executive session, but the board may vote after coming out of executive session.