

Vermont Superintendents Association

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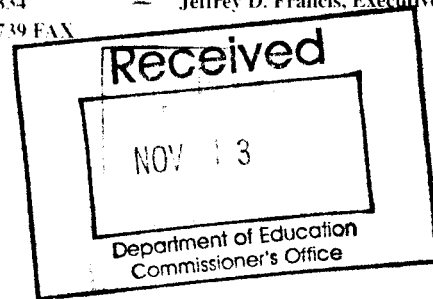
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— Jeffrey D. Francis, Executive Director

November 12, 2007

Commissioner Richard H. Cate
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2501



Dear Richard:

In accordance with Section 19 of Act 82 of 2007, I am forwarding the statement on the future governance of Vermont's public school districts adopted by the Vermont Superintendents Association on November 1, 2007.

The statement was approved by the members of the Association at its recent fall business meeting. I am providing the following information for context.

The Vermont Superintendents Association believes that students, families and communities would benefit from school systems governed by single boards with responsibility for oversight of grades Pre-K through graduation. The benefits include:

- 1) Educational continuity and coherence for students;
- 2) Ease of transition for family involvement and participation as students move from one school building to the next;
- 3) Improved effectiveness and efficiency in the use of school-related resources;
- 4) Increased clarity in the roles and responsibilities of those participating in school governance and management;
- 5) Enhanced accountability for the governing boards and administrators contributing to the operations of the schools; and
- 6) Organizational conditions more conducive to the attraction and retention of school leaders.

You will note that while the Association's statement recommends progression toward a system characterized by Pre-K to Grade 12 alignment and governance within Vermont's school systems, it does not provide a road map for how to arrive there. The Association has not developed a position on whether Pre-K to Grade 12 alignment and governance should be achieved through incentives, mandates, other measures or some combination thereof. We will participate in discussions of that topic when and if they occur.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Moran, President
Vermont Superintendents Association



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Jeffrey D. Francis, Executive Director

**Statement on the future governance of public school districts in
Vermont**

Approved by the VSA Membership - November 1, 2007

The Vermont Superintendents Association believes that the future governance of all public school districts in Vermont must:

- Provide for a continuum of learning for all students PK-12
- Ensure that curriculum, instruction, and assessment are aligned across grade levels and schools
- Provide for the involvement of students, parents and communities

Therefore, the Vermont Superintendents Association recommends that the future structure for Vermont school districts provide for single PK-12 governing boards, each with the authority and responsibility to develop and maintain policy that ensures a structure for management and accountability.

Where PK-12 districts do not currently exist, supervisory union boundaries should guide the formation of future PK-12 districts.

Note: PK-12 means Pre-K included where applicable and includes technical education.