

Commission on the Future of Vermont Public Education *Communication & Engagement Framework*

The Commission on the Future of Public Education in Vermont is committed to conducting its work in a manner that fosters broad communication and engagement with Vermonters. The Communication and Engagement Framework seeks to achieve the following:

- 1. Information Sharing: *Educate***
Informing and educating the public about the current Vermont education context and the complexity of the challenges we face. Information sharing includes providing accurate, valid data in a manner that is understandable to provide context, as well as providing ongoing information about the work of the Commission. It helps ensure that the public can provide informed input.
- 2. Listening & Learning: *Gather Information***
Gathering feedback from collaborators and the public in real time can help inform the Commission as it conducts its work. In particular, the Commission can leverage existing data and feedback being gathered from other organizations, groups and individuals
- 3. Engage: *Partner & Influence***
Engagement is an ongoing, two-way process of building relationships, working collaboratively, and sharing power.

FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

The Commission recognizes that effective community engagement, particularly equity-focused engagement, requires deep expertise. Toward that end, the Communication and Engagement subcommittee is recommending the Commission secure outside consultation. The consultant will support the refinement of the framework as well as its implementation.

The following framework, then, is offered to the Commission as a general overview of what the Communication & Engagement Committee recommends as critical components of the engagement of the Commission. It is offered to satisfy the requirement of having a communications plan by September 15th, 2024 as outlined in [Act 183](#). It is submitted with the understanding that the plan will evolve and include additional detail once a consultant has been secured.

Commission on the Future of Vermont Public Education
Communication & Engagement Framework

Group, Event or Activity	Description	Who will this reach?	Who might this miss? <i>(and what's the plan?)</i>
Statewide Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → A survey developed with consultant support and widely distributed across the state will help to gather input from those unable to attend Commission meetings and input session → There may be multiple surveys depending on where the Commission is in its work → Codesigned with the support of the consultant 		
Rotating Location of Commission Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Act 183 requires that at least one meeting of the Commission or a Subcommittee be held in each county in Vermont → These meetings <u>may</u> be combined with separate community input opportunities 		
Community Conversations <i>(in each county*)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Hold a facilitated community conversation following each Commission Meeting → These meetings <u>may</u> be combined with full Commission meetings located in each county, <u>or</u> may be planned separately 	Residents in the county Those able to attend (in person, virtual)	Individuals unable to attend meetings at that time - may need a companion distribution method to share information with those who can't attend
Commission Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Each Commission member represents an organization or perspective and as a representative will design a mechanism to gather input from their constituents. This input will be 	Focused on specific groups identified in the Commission makeup	

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Communication & Engagement Framework**

	shared with the full commission		
Ongoing Media Summaries	→ The Consultant will generate regular summaries of Commission work to be released to the media. This will supplement formal meeting minutes and will be designed to be accessible and understandable to a broad audience		
Frequently Asked Questions	→ Consultant will support the development of a Frequently Asked Question section for the website that will include responses to common questions asked at meetings and other opportunities		
Communication Toolkit	→ The consultant will develop a “communication toolkit” for use by Commission members so that there is a common set of information that can be used when they are invited to outside events that can be engagement opportunities		
<i>The following are identified as entities or groups that the Commission is <u>required</u> to engage with under Act 183. They are listed here to ensure that additional planning is conducted with the consultant to ensure adequate engagement with each group.</i>			
Department of Mental Health	→		
Department of Labor	→		
President of the University of Vermont or designee Chancellor of the VT State Colleges or designee	→		

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Communication & Engagement Framework

PreK Implementation Committee	→		
Office of Racial Equity	→		
Representative of the Community Schools Model	→		
Vermont Youth Council	→		
Commission on Public School Health Benefits	→		
“an organization committed to ensuring equal representation and educational equity”	→		