

## Draft: Commission on the Future of Vermont Public Education *Communication and Engagement Plan*

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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 Plan seeks to achieve the following objectives:

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.

2. **Listening and 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 and Influence*

Engagement is an ongoing, two-way process of building relationships, working collaboratively, and sharing power.

### EXPERTISE NEEDED

The Commission recognizes that effective community engagement, particularly equity-focused engagement, requires deep expertise. The Communication and Engagement subcommittee is committed to securing outside expertise to help refine and carry out the activities named in the plan. Specifically, the consultant will:

- Have a deep understanding of equity-focused community engagement, and will support the Communication and Engagement Committee to further refine the Engagement plan through an equity lens
- Ensure the plan utilizes the most effective strategies to achieve each of the above objectives as well as matching the objective to the desired communication outcome
- Plan and facilitate community conversations, focus groups
- Provide training and toolkit materials to Commission members so they are able to carry out the communication and engagement strategies in a consistent manner

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<b>Group, Event or Activity</b> <i>Asterisk indicates a requirement of <a href="#">Act 183</a></i>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Strategy(ies)</b>	<b>Who will this reach?</b>	<b>Who might this miss? (and what's the plan?)</b>
Community Conversations <i>(in each county*)</i>	Information Sharing: <i>Inform and Educate</i>	→ Hold a facilitated community conversation following each Commission Meeting	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
Department of Mental Health*	Information Sharing: <i>Inform and Educate</i>  Engage <i>Partner and Influence</i>	→ Focus Group - possibly combined with other groups		
Department of Labor*				
President of the University of Vermont or designee*  Chancellor of the VT State Colleges or designee*	Listen/Learn <i>Gather Information</i>  Engage <i>Partner and Influence</i>	→ Focus Group		

Purpose Codes:

IS - Information Sharing: Inform/Educate

L - Listening/Learning: Gather information

E - Engage: Partner & influence

DRAFT: 8/27/24

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PreK Implementation Committee*	Listen/Learn <i>Gather Information</i>	→ Identify existing structures and send a Commission representative		
Office of Racial Equity*  “an organization committed to ensuring equal representation and educational equity”*	Engage <i>Partner and Influence</i>	→ Connect individually to plan ongoing engagement → Work directly with engagement consultant		
Representative of the Community Schools Model*				
Vermont Youth Council*	Listen/Learn <i>Gather Information</i>  Engage <i>Partner and Influence</i>	→ Identify existing structures and send a Commission representative to gather input → Determine ongoing structure for participation and engagement with students		
Commission on Public School Health Benefits*				

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Vermont Principals' Association  Vermont Superintendents Association  Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association  Vermont School Board Association  Vermont Association of School Business Officials  Vermont Independent Schools Association	Listen/ Learn <i>Gather Information</i>	→ Identify existing structures and send a Commission representative to gather input		

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