

**AGENCY OF EDUCATION**

**Barre, Vermont**

**TEAM: Data Management and Administration**

**ITEM:** Will the State Board of Education:

1. Review and approve proposed changes to the SY19 Public School Register. Changes include alignment of specification language from the public school census collections to the VT SLDS Vertical Reporting (VR) specification, in addition to references noted for Act 77

**SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**The State Board of Education review and approve proposed changes to the SY19 Public School Register.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

**EXCERPT FROM VERMONT STATUTES ANNOTATED, TITLE 16**

**Section 1321. Form and contents of register**

With the approval of the State Board, the Secretary shall prescribe the content of school registers used to keep records of student enrollment and daily attendance and to obtain statistical and other information from teachers and school officers. Schools shall maintain an electronic system for recording enrollment and attendance.

**Act 77 summary from the VT AOE website**

The Flexible Pathways Initiative, [created by Act 77 of 2013](#) and found in statute under [16 V.S.A. § 941](#), encourages and supports the creativity of school districts as they develop and expand high-quality educational experiences that are an integral part of secondary education in the evolving 21st-century classroom.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Vermont School Register is a student record-keeping document required by Vermont Statute (see Appendix B) for archival purposes. The purpose of the school register is to document each Vermont school's continuous year-to-year cycle of enrolling students, to record daily attendance, to report dropouts and graduates, and to report year-end attendance to the Agency of Education. It is the source document for calculating Average Daily Membership, which is a critical aspect in the state funding system. Beginning in 2018, the mechanism for

transferring this information to the Agency of Education will be the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (VT SLDS), which will collect data throughout the school year.

In Vermont, students of compulsory age are expected to be members of a school or acceptable educational program. A student must be enrolled elsewhere if he or she leaves their current school or educational program. This concept of continuous enrollment has always been included in the school register. The Student Census, which will be incorporated into the VT SLDS, documents the entry of students into the school system, their continuous enrollment from one school to another within Vermont and/or their transfer out of the Vermont Public School System. Each student must be enrolled on a register whether or not the student attends that first day of school. Once a child is enrolled in the school system, it is the school district's responsibility at the beginning of the year to account for each student who was enrolled on the last day of school the previous year. Within ten days of the start of each school year, the register must show that each student from the previous year is attending, absent for a specific reason, has transferred, is receiving an approved alternate form of instruction or has dropped out of the school system.

The Vermont School Register consists of a list of students and student information. This information serves as a public record and should be maintained as such. Schools are expected to maintain a computerized student information system.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

None. The changes made to this document are for administrative purposes only.

As AOE stands up the VT Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), the new technological infrastructure requires some administrative updates to current language in the School Register in order to align with new methods of collecting and reporting data.

#### **EDUCATION IMPLICATIONS:**

Once AOE stands up the VTSLDS, this modernization effort will help reduce data reporting burden on the field.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

#### **STAFF AVAILABLE:**

Jennifer Perry, Data Administration Director  
Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary