

Message from The Coalition for Equity in Education:

WHO WE ARE:

The Coalition for Equity in Education is composed of school board members from various communities and districts across the state. While we come from communities that couldn't look more different from one another, we have come together around our common belief that Vermont's outdated education funding method needs to be updated in order to provide all of Vermont's children with equitable educational opportunities. We believe that education is a key component in helping children thrive and succeed and provides huge benefits economically to our state by ensuring we have a skilled and well-educated workforce.

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, at the behest of the Vermont Legislature, a group of nationally recognized experts in education conducted a study of the weighting factors used in Vermont's education funding formula. This thorough Report concluded that the current pupil weights (how students with different needs are counted to determine the differential cost of educating them) are outdated (over 20 years old), don't reflect the contemporary costs to educate children who require additional resources, and do not appear to be based on any scientific study. The Report provided specific recommendations to update and improve the weights used to determine "equalized pupils", a key measure in the state's education funding formula. The Report recommends new pupil weighting factors for children who live in poverty, in rural communities and who are New American English Language Learners.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR:

Our Coalition is advocating for implementation of the recommendations of the Pupil Weighting Factors Report during this legislative session.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE, OR IN JOINING THE COALITION:

Please contact either Mike Fisher (mbfisher@bsdvt.org) or Kendra Sowers (ksowers@bsdvt.org) of the Burlington School District, who have been leading this effort for the members of the Coalition.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF COALITION EFFORTS:

[VPR story with audio](#) 2-28-21

[Rutland Herald article](#) 2-16-21

[Deerfield Valley News article](#) 2-18-21

[VT Digger article](#) 2-28-21

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2-23-21 TESTIMONY

[Secretary French](#)

Alex Yin (Winooski SD) [video transcript](#)

Vicki Capitani (Dover Select Board) [video transcript](#)