

2025-2026 VSBA Resolutions – VSBA Board Report
August 13, 2025

According to the VSBA Bylaws, resolutions are "positions taken by the Association on issues of importance to Vermont school boards. They may include recommendations for action by the VSBA, local school boards, the Legislature, the Executive Branch...or other decision-making bodies." Resolutions are guidance for staff and the VSBA Board when they are working in the public policy arena or developing programs and services for our members.

Each year, the VSBA Resolutions Committee considers all resolutions submitted by a member school district board, develops resolutions on issues of importance that are not otherwise addressed in existing or submitted resolutions, and reviews all continuing and regular resolutions.

The VSBA Resolutions Committee and the VSBA Board make a recommendation to "Pass", "Do Not Pass" or "Take No Position" on any resolution submitted by a member school district board. "Take No Position" is a neutral stance which indicates that the Board did not make a recommendation on the applicable resolution. All resolutions submitted by member boards will be submitted to the membership at our Annual Meeting, regardless of the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee or the VSBA Board.

After careful consideration of the resolutions submitted by member boards, and a review of all continuing and regular VSBA Resolutions, the VSBA Board submits the following Resolutions Report to the membership for consideration at the annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Clough, Chair of the Resolutions Committee
Gaston Bathalon
Bart Bezio
Suzanne Buck
Michael Inners
Meghan Metzler
Lisa Miser
Neil Odell
Jim Salsgiver
Laura Williams
Joe Winrich

**VSBA Board Recommendations for the Resolutions Submitted
by Member School Boards and the VSBA Resolutions Committee**

The VSBA Board reviewed all resolutions submitted by member school boards as well as the proposed resolution submitted by the resolutions committee. The Board also reviewed the committee's recommendations on current resolutions.

Page	Res #	Proposing Board	Topic	Board Rec. <i>(Pass/Do Not Pass/Take No Position)</i>
3	1	Essex Westford School District Board	Universal School Meals - Amendment to current resolution	PASS as a continuing resolution
5	2	Lake Region Union High School Board, Lake Region Elementary-Middle School Board, North Country Supervisory Union Board	Local Control of Public Schools and Building on Existing Work	Take No Position
7	3	Lake Region Union High School Board, Lake Region Elementary-Middle School Board, North Country Supervisory Union Board	School Funding Formula	PASS as a regular resolution
9	4	Lake Region Union High School Board, Lake Region Elementary-Middle School Board, North Country Supervisory Union Board	Statewide Teacher Contract	PASS as a continuing resolution
11	5	Lake Region Union High School Board, Lake Region Elementary-Middle School Board, North Country Supervisory Union Board	Vaping On School Grounds	PASS as a regular resolution
13	6	Peacham School Board	Retaining elementary schools State-wide	PASS as a regular resolution
14	7	Resolutions Committee	Education Transformation	PASS as regular resolution
15	8	Windham Southeast Supervisory District School Board and Windham Supervisory Union Board	Consolidation of schools	Take No Position
16	9	Ludlow Mount Holly UUSD Board	VSBA positions on legislation	Take No Position
17	10	Wells Springs Unified Union School District Board	VSBA's position of legislation	Take No Position
18	11	Lincoln School District Board	Forced district consolidation; due process	Take No Position
19-22	N/A	Current Resolutions	-----	Motion passed on full slate of resolution committee recommendations

**Resolution Proposal #1:
Essex Westford School District
Section V, Subsection D
Universal School Meals - Amendment**

Whereas, access to nutritious meals is essential for student health, well-being, and academic success; and

Whereas, universal school meals reduce stigma, improve student participation in school meal programs, and support working families; and

Whereas, Act 64 of 2023 (2023 Vt. Acts & Resolves No. 64) established a Universal School Meals program, codified in 16 V.S.A. § 1264a, requiring all public schools in Vermont to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students; and

Whereas, this law represents a significant advancement in public education equity and child welfare, ensuring all students can focus on learning rather than hunger or financial hardship; and

Whereas, continued support—both legislatively and financially—is essential to maintain and strengthen this program beyond the initial years of implementation; and

Whereas, moving USM funding from the ED Fund places the program at greater risk given that it would then have to be an annual debate to maintain the funding that would be under the control of an administration that annually advocates for eliminating the program; and

Whereas, USM is not the reason that property taxes have and are increasing, costing less than the 20 million dollars originally budgeted for the program; and

Whereas, USM is an education expense built as a program to improve education outcomes, and it is an effective intervention that is quite inexpensive for the benefit it provides; and

Whereas, USM is currently having a positive impact on local school budgets and eliminating it would be incredibly costly for schools costing taxpayers more to administer a fee based program than the Current model; and

Whereas, charging for meals would mean skyrocketing general fund transfers for districts because of unpaid meal debt and less efficient meal programs serving fewer meals; and

Whereas, district general fund transfers to the foodservice accounts are down 40% from pre-pandemic to 2022-23, and the number of districts where the food service program was self-sufficient has risen from 7 to 19; and

Whereas, if USM were eliminated, each district would then have to make a decision to either fund a Universal school meal program directly from their school budgets, which only 25% of schools were doing pre-pandemic or start charging for meals; and

Whereas, maintaining funding for USM in the State Education Fund ensures that there is a sustainable source of funding for the program; and

Whereas, Universal school meals are a matter of educational equity and public health and by enshrining support for Act 64 and universal meals, the VSBA demonstrates its commitment to reducing barriers to learning and strengthening the well-being of Vermont students.

Therefore, Be It Resolved the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) shall advocate for and support state policies, including stable and adequate funding, to maintain and strengthen Vermont's universal free school meals program as established under 16 V.S.A. § 1264a, reflecting this commitment by amending a past resolution from:

“VSBA supports Universal School Meals in Vermont schools. The funding should come from a source other than the education fund.”

To

“VSBA supports Universal School Meals in Vermont schools.”

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: PASS as continuing resolution

Resolution Proposal #2:
Lake Region Union High School Board, Lake Region Elementary-Middle School Board,
North Country Supervisory Union Board
Section I, Subsection ____
Local Control of Public Schools and Building on Existing Work

Whereas Vermont's current public education system is organized into local school boards and districts with the members elected at the local level and representing their local communities. Each school district's education spending and education policy is determined at a local level, where local citizens who know their communities make decisions and school boards set budgets that must be approved by local voters. Rising education costs and declining student enrollments have led to the need for some change in both the financial and organizational structure of the system; and

Whereas It is proposed that Vermont change its public education system to consolidate into larger administrative units (i.e., school district boundaries) that would result in the closure of a significant number of local community schools; and

Whereas The main rationale for these significant changes is to lower the cost of education through administrative cost savings, even though the most significant cost drivers are children's mental health care, staff health insurance, special education and transportation. Installing large bureaucratic governance structures has not been shown to lower costs, especially with rural populations, spread out over large areas; and

Whereas Closing of local community schools and consolidating administrative units can result in a loss of connection between local community members and decisions about their schools and the education of their children as well as the loss of the resources and benefits that a local school provides to the community; and

Whereas Local communities and school boards recognize the need for changes in structure and some consolidation of resources, and have been considering possibilities, making plans and implementing some changes. For example, one supervisory union has paired elementary and secondary school students in adjacent towns and reconfigured the student population, sending all K-4 students to one school and 5-8 students to another, thereby being able to increase class size without closing the affected schools. These changes have been initiated at the local level with input from community members and school staff and administrators; and

WHEREAS: Local communities and school boards recognize the need for changes in structure, and many have engaged in significant long-range planning for needed school building improvements and staffing, keeping in mind the challenges of Vermont geography – many miles of unpaved back roads, mountainous terrain and the need to limit time spent on buses; and

Whereas The state has previously instituted changes that included both consolidation of schools and attempts to provide cost savings and they have not been evaluated. One such action is Act 46 of 2015 to consolidate school districts and close local schools. Another is the setting up of Boards of Cooperative Education Services in 2024 in order to save administrative costs.

Therefore, Be It Resolved any changes to the structure of public education in Vermont should maintain the democratic process by keeping in place local control and decision making for schools. If consolidation and closure of schools are proposed, the general assembly should study the impact on local communities using Vermont-based data to support decisions before enacting such changes. The general assembly should also consider the efforts already under way by local school boards to address the issues of declining enrollment, increasing costs and aging school buildings, and evaluate the impact of policy already enacted that have the same goals.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Take no position

Resolution Proposal #3:
Lake Region Union High School Board, Lake Region Elementary-Middle School Board,
North Country Supervisory Union Board
Section II, Subsection ____
School Funding Formula

Whereas Vermont's education finance system currently uses a statewide funding formula coupled with local spending decisions and property tax administration at the local level. Each school district's education spending is determined at a local level, where school boards set budgets that must be approved by local voters; and

Whereas Under a foundation system of finance, instead of building a school budget based on the needs of local children and communities, schools would be given a fixed amount per pupil, possibly with adjustments and allowances based on established criteria; and

Whereas Converting to a foundation system for funding schools would take control over school spending away from local voters and give it to the legislature and the governor; and

Whereas Before 1997, when Act 60 was passed and the state Education Fund was established, Vermont was using a foundation system to fund schools. This system, as well as foundation systems in other states resulted in stark disparities in resources between rich and poor towns; and

Whereas Prior experience in Vermont shows that because public education is such a big part of state spending (one-third of the total budget), there is often downward pressure on the foundation amount. It was often underfunded to balance other parts of the state budget; and

Whereas A one-size-fits-all approach does not address the biggest cost drivers that hit some districts harder than others, like children's mental health care, staff health insurance, special education and transportation; and

Whereas Eliminating voters' say in school budgets undermines local democratic engagement and contradicts Vermont's tradition of direct local governance and will reduce community engagement with and connection to their schools; and

Whereas Schools will be starting from different places in a standardized foundation system. Some schools have already made cuts to programing and need additional funds to catch up and some are in the middle of construction projects.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the General Assembly should adjust the current school funding system to address the concern that rising education taxes are unsustainable. This should be done in several ways, including (1) basing more of the funding formula on school district and

resident taxpayer ability to pay and (2) addressing school budget cost drivers over which local school boards have no control. These include children's mental health care, staff health insurance, special education services and costs, and transportation. No changes in education funding should be enacted without a thorough analysis of the impact both on individual school districts and individual taxpayers in Vermont.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: PASS as regular resolution

Resolution Proposal #4:
Lake Region Union High School Board, Lake Region Elementary-Middle School Board,
North Country Supervisory Union Board
Section IV, Subsection ____
STATEWIDE TEACHER CONTRACT

Whereas 16 V.S.A. § 2005 mandates that school board negotiations councils and the teachers' organization shall enter into a written agreement or agreements incorporating matters agreed to in negotiation; and

Whereas the Governor has advocated for the adoption of a statewide teacher contract to control rising education costs and also increase teacher salaries. He indicated in the 2025 Education Transformation Plan that the statewide teacher contract could be a means to "increasing and equalizing teacher pay, so teachers have the option of serving in any school, anywhere in the state, without sacrificing pay or benefits"; and

Whereas H.454, An Act Relating to Transforming Vermont's Education Governance, Quality, and Finance Systems, (Draft No. 9.1) calls for raising teacher salaries without specifying how this will be accomplished; and

Whereas school staff salaries and benefits (including health insurance) are reported to account for up to 80% of budgets. With staff salary increases negotiated and set through contracts, cutting staff is the only way to make significant reductions in spending in a budget year and many Vermont school districts have done just that; and

Whereas there are currently significant disparities in teachers' compensation throughout the state and it is not expected that the highest paying teachers will lower their compensation. Thus, compensation will have to rise substantially for those currently getting lower pay. This will mean an overall increase in the average teacher compensation package. It is counterintuitive that increasing teacher salaries through a statewide teacher contract could reduce education costs, provide sustainability, or improve student learning – all stated goals of the governor's education transformation initiative; and

Whereas no U.S. state except Hawaii has a single, statewide teacher contract that covers all public school teachers across the entire state. Hawaii has a single school district, and all teachers are employed by the state. Other states have considered state wide contracts and some, such as Rhode Island, have made a comprehensive study of costs, benefits and impacts. But none has adopted a statewide teacher contract; and

Whereas an analogous effort - the statewide health benefit for school employees – does not appear to have lived up to its promises of cost savings. It was created under 16 V.S.A. § 2004 and detailed under 16 V.S.A. § 2101-2108 and was projected to "save up to \$26 million each

year” and provide “equity and sustainability in healthcare coverage for school employees across all districts” with negotiations through a statewide Commission on Public School Employee Health Benefits. With double-digit increases in offered healthcare plans recently, it does not seem that the projected savings have been realized and there has been no analysis or reporting of outcomes.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that any action by the Vermont General Assembly regarding a state-wide teacher’s contract include an in-depth cost/ benefit analysis with the financial impact on the lowest spending and highest spending school districts. In addition, a study should be made of the efforts and best practices used by other states to manage teacher’s contracts in light of cost efficiencies and education outcomes and that no move to a state-wide teacher’s contract be enacted without a detailed demonstration of how it will provide cost savings and better student outcomes.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: PASS as regular resolution

Resolution Proposal #5:
Lake Region Union High School Board, Lake Region Elementary-Middle School Board,
North Country Supervisory Union Board
Section V, Subsection ____
VAPING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Whereas 16 VSA 136(b) requires the Secretary, Agency of Education, to establish an Advisory Council on Wellness and Comprehensive Health to assist the Agency to plan, coordinate, and encourage wellness and comprehensive health programs in public schools. The Advisory Council is to meet not less than twice a year. Public minutes of Advisory Council meetings suggest the Advisory Council last met on Thursday, January 12, 2023, with no future meeting scheduled; and

Whereas 16 V.S.A. § 140 prohibits the use of tobacco substitutes on “public school grounds” and at sponsored events; and

Whereas 7 V.S.A. § 1003(a) prohibits the sale/distribution of tobacco substitutes to persons under age 21 and 7 V.S.A. § 1005(a)(1) prohibits the purchase or possession of tobacco substitutes by persons under age 21; and

Whereas Data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2024 National Youth Tobacco Survey, on youth tobacco use found that E-cigarettes are the most used tobacco product among U.S. youth with the vast majority using flavored e-cigarettes. Among students who had ever used e-cigarettes over 1 in 4 are daily users; and

Whereas Data from the Vermont Health Department and Agency of Education sponsored 2023 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly a third of high school students have tried an electronic vapor product (EVP). Of those currently using EVPs, over 1 in 3 use them daily. Obtaining EVPs was believed to be easy for many; and

Whereas Data from the Vermont Health Department and Agency of Education sponsored 2023 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that over 1 in 10 middle school students tried an electronic vapor product (EVP). About 1 in 15 reported current or recent use of an EVP. Electronic vapor product use increased with each grade. Obtaining EVPs was believed to be sort of easy or very easy for nearly 1 in 4 students; and

Whereas No tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, are safe, especially for children, teens, and young adults; and

Whereas There has been an alarming increase in the number of middle and high school boards needing to hold student hearings to address the illegal use of electronic vapor products by students.

Therefore, Be It Resolved the VSBA will petition the Governor and General Assembly to instruct the Agency of Education to reconvene the Advisory Council on Wellness and Comprehensive Health to review the current state of the use of electronic vaping products among Vermont students, investigate ways to curb the increased use in middle and high school students, and take decisive action to address this increase by identifying resources for cessation programs, counseling support, and preventative education.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: PASS as regular resolution

Resolution Proposal #6:
Peacham School Board
Section ____, Subsection ____
Supporting the Value and Contributions of Small Community Elementary Schools

Whereas small community elementary schools foster vibrancy through enhanced interactions, communication, and connection, creating strong community ties that enrich both the school and the broader community; and

Whereas small community elementary schools contribute to local economic development by attracting families, supporting local businesses, and serving as anchors for sustainable communities; and

Whereas research demonstrates that small schools, when led by strong school leadership, support academic success through individualized learning, fostering citizenship, and preparing students to thrive in a changing world; and

Whereas small community elementary schools provide a vehicle to address social changes and challenges within their communities, serving as hubs for innovation and resilience; and

Whereas these schools offer a stronger student and family experience by reducing time spent on bussing, thereby enhancing accessibility and equity for all students;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) advocates for policies and resources that recognize the unique value and contributions that community primary elementary schools provide to the communities they serve. They are a cornerstone of their communities and create identity and connection that is mutually essential, providing educational, cultural and economic vitality for Vermont communities.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: PASS as regular resolution

**Resolution Proposal #7:
Resolutions Committee
Section I, Subsection ____
Education Transformation**

Whereas VSBA vigorously opposed the Governor’s proposal to reduce the number of school districts in Vermont from 119 to 5, and

Whereas the VSBA advocated in the legislature about the wide range of perspectives of school board members across Vermont and encouraged legislators to actively reach out to board members in their regions to ensure that the final outcome of H.454 (act 73) would be aligned with the values and goals of our communities, and

Whereas the Senate Education Committee did not incorporate VSBA’s suggested changes in their proposal, and

Whereas the VSBA did not support the Conference Committee Report, which removed important safeguards regarding independent school tuition, mandated district sizes that are not based on research, set up a redistricting group that has a majority of law makers, fails to provide enough school board voices on voting groups, and redirects extra education funds to lower property taxes rather than address school construction needs, and

Whereas Act 73 does not address the biggest cost drivers even though the main rationale for the significant education transformation changes is to lower the cost of education through administrative cost savings, even though the most significant cost drivers are children’s mental health care, staff health insurance, special education and transportation, and

Whereas the state has previously instituted changes that included attempts at both consolidation and providing cost savings, yet the effects of Act 46 have not been evaluated nor has there been sufficient evidence of potential financial savings as a result of Act 73, and

Whereas the Governor has enacted Act 73 (2025), “An act relating to transforming Vermont’s education governance, quality, and finance systems”,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the VSBA advocates for strong, meaningful participation and decision-making by local school boards during all remaining phases of Vermont’s long-term education transformation process, especially regarding decisions that affect the future of their schools. Additionally, VSBA supports a process for a community served by a school to have a voice in decisions regarding school closures.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: PASS as regular resolution

Resolution Proposal #8:
Windham Southeast School District Board and Windham Southeast
Supervisory Union Board
Section I, Subsection ____
Consolidation of Schools

Whereas the State Legislature is considering legislation that would eliminate local accountability for schools by forcing the consolidation of school districts, despite the lack of evidence that such consolidation would produce cost savings—especially given that most small districts have already centralized administrative functions at the supervisory union level; and

Whereas the proposed legislation would make it easier to close small schools against the will of local residents, again without sufficient evidence of financial savings, and would cause serious harm to both the educational outcomes of rural students and the fabric of their communities; and

Whereas small elementary schools often feature small class sizes that are essential to providing students with the individualized attention they need to succeed, particularly in today's complex and demanding educational environment.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Vermont School Boards Association shall vigorously oppose any legislation that:

- Forces the consolidation of school districts;
- Makes it easier to close small schools against the will of the community;
- Imposes minimum class sizes on small elementary schools; and

And further, Be It Resolved that the VSBA will actively support legislation that ensures local communities retain a strong and meaningful voice in all decisions about the future of their schools.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Take no position

Resolution Proposal #9:
Ludlow Mount Holly UUSD Board
Section V, Subsection ____
VSBA Positions on Legislation

Whereas Whereas the State Legislature is considering legislation that will eliminate local accountability for schools by forcing the consolidation of school districts and there is no evidence that consolidating school districts will save any money because most small districts have already moved administrative functions to the supervisory union; and

Whereas, proposed legislation would make it easier to force the closure of small schools against the wishes of local residents without evidence that such closures would save significant money and would be damaging to the communities and seriously erode the quality of education that rural students in Vermont receive; and

Whereas small elementary schools often have small classes that offer students the individual attention they need to thrive in these challenging times;; and

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the VSBA will vigorously oppose any legislation that seeks to force the consolidation of school districts or make it easier to force the closure of small schools or will impose minimum class sizes on small elementary schools and will support legislation to ensure that local communities have a strong voice in deciding whether small schools should close.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Take no position

Resolution Proposal #10:
Wells Springs Unified Union School District Board
Section V, Subsection ____
VSBA's Position on Legislation

Whereas the State Legislature is considering legislation that will eliminate local accountability for schools by forcing the consolidation of school districts and there is no evidence that consolidating school districts will save any money because most small districts have already moved administrative functions to the supervisory union; and

Whereas proposed legislation would make it easier to force the closure of small schools against the wishes of local residents without evidence that such closures would save significant money, would be damaging to the communities and seriously erode the quality of education that rural students in Vermont receive; and

Whereas small elementary schools often have small classes that offer students the individual attention they need to thrive in these challenging times,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the VSBA will vigorously oppose any legislation that seeks to force the consolidation of school districts or make it easier to force the closure of small schools or will impose minimum class sizes on small elementary schools and will support legislation to ensure that local communities have a strong voice in deciding whether small schools should close.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Take no position

Resolution Proposal #11:
Lincoln School District Board
Section I, Subsection ____
Forced District Consolidation; Due Process

Whereas the State Legislature is considering legislation that will eliminate local accountability for schools by forcing the consolidation of school districts, while there is no evidence that consolidating school districts will save any money because most small districts have already moved administrative functions to the Supervisory Union; and

Whereas proposed legislation would make it easier to force the closure of small schools against the wishes of local residents, without evidence that such closures would save significant money, and while such closure would be damaging to communities and seriously erode the quality of education that rural students in Vermont receive; and

Whereas small elementary schools often have small classes that offer students the individual attention they need to thrive in these challenging times.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the VSBA will vigorously oppose any legislation that seeks to force the consolidation of school districts or make it easier to force the closure of small schools, or that will impose minimum class sizes on small elementary schools, or impose mandated district sizes, and will support legislation to ensure that local communities have a strong voice in deciding whether schools should close.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION: Take no position

Recommendations for Current Resolutions

(Note: resolutions with an asterisk () are in place for one year and are deleted (sunsetted) unless acted upon; others continue unless deleted)*

Resolution I.J. TIMELY AND RELIABLE INFORMATION & IMPLEMENTATION * The VSBA will prioritize and use its influence to support Vermont School Boards in ensuring that Business Managers, Superintendents, and School Boards receive required, useful and timely information from the Agency of Education.

Board Recommendation: Continue as a regular resolution

Resolution I.K. MONITOR OUTCOMES FROM ACT 46 GOALS * The VSBA declares that the Secretary's adherence to the dictates of Act 46 to comprehensively compile and analyze data and present the report with the required conclusions and recommendations is a matter of the highest priority for its member school districts.

Consideration: Restate to address any statewide consolidation and outcomes?

Board Recommendation: Continue as a regular resolution

Resolution I.M. GOVERNANCE OF CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) SCHOOLS [2020 Updated 2022] * A study should be conducted to better understand the variety of CTE governing models, operations and budgeting structures that exist across the State. The study would examine any inconsistencies that impact student learning and outcomes, and identify and propose new models of funding and governance structures to improve the quality, duration and access to career technical education in Vermont.

Board Recommendation: Continue as a regular resolution

Resolution I.N. GOVERNANCE STANDARDS [2022] * The VSBA advocates for significant input on the school district quality standards adopted by rule of the AOE regarding the business, facilities management, and governance practices of school districts.

Board Recommendation: Delete because this work is complete.

Resolution I.O. REMOTE SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS [2023] * The General Assembly should amend Vermont's Open Meeting Law to make fully remote meetings a permanent, voluntary option.

Board Recommendation: Delete because OML has been taken up over the past two years and this has not been approved and there are ongoing concerns about broadband coverage in rural areas.

Resolution II.C. ADULT STUDENTS IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION [1997] The VSBA urges the General Assembly to fund 100% of the costs of educating, in technical education centers, Vermont residents ~~persons~~ over 21 years of age who lack a high school diploma and are not enrolled for purposes of pursuing graduation from a high school or technical center.

Board Recommendation: Amend and continue as a continuing resolution (clarifying application to Vermont residents)

Resolution II.E. COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL * The VSBA calls upon the Governor and General Assembly to study the mechanics of the Common Level of Appraisal and its effect on education property tax rates.

1. We especially ask for consideration of the effect that calculation and application of the CLA has on small towns.
2. We ask for consideration of alternative methods of adjusting property values for taxation, including but not limited to developing a regional CLA or a rolling reappraisal system.
3. We ask for an examination of a more equitable system of calculating the CLA, which could include such approaches as:
 - a. Automatically excluding high value outliers from calculations;
 - b. Re-examining how properties are categorized;
 - c. Limiting the punitive impacts of annual changes in a community's CLA that result from local reappraisals.
0. We ask that this study consider the effect these recommendations would have on the Education Fund.

Board Recommendation: Continue as a regular resolution until some of the Ed Transformation unknowns are more clear.

Resolution II.F. REFORM THE EDUCATION TAX SYSTEM * The General Assembly should examine alternative funding sources for our education system that are more equitable and sustainable, rather than continue a system that predominantly relies on the property tax for revenue.

Board Recommendation: Continue as a regular resolution

Resolution II.O. BROADBAND ACCESS FOR EDUCATION [2020] * That providing universal access to high-speed broadband services for every student and family in Vermont must be a goal of the highest order for the government of the State of Vermont. And, where access to such broadband services is available but cannot be reasonably afforded by families with students in our schools, that some form of financial support should be made available to those families (although not as an additional unfunded cost to the school districts) to ensure that the students in those families have the high speed broadband service necessary to support their education.

Board Recommendation: Continue as a regular resolution

Resolution II.R. EDUCATION FINANCE [2021] * The VSBA fully supports the findings as presented in the Pupil Weighting Factors Report dated December 24, 2019. And furthermore, the VSBA requests the Vermont Legislature to thoughtfully and expeditiously establish an implementation plan for the Report's recommendations.

Board Recommendation: Delete because new weights are outlined as part of the foundation formula.

Resolution II. T. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE * The General Assembly must act to bring Vermont tuition reimbursement policy and practice into compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the Carson v. Makin without violating the Compelled Support Clause in Article III of Chapter I of the Vermont Constitution.

Board Recommendation: Continue as a continuing resolution

Resolution III.G. SCHOOL DISTRICT INNOVATION ZONES VSBA supports legislation authorizing the creation of innovation zones to exempt supervisory unions and/or districts from specific regulation and policy in order to create models of world-class education systems that can be scaled across the state.

Consideration: Innovation zones was a concept discussed in 2013. [H.615](#) was introduced, but did not move through the legislative process. This term is antiquated.

Board Recommendation: Delete

Resolution III. I. EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM [2020, updated 2021] The VSBA is committed to the success of every student, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, family economics, class, **citizenship, immigration status**, geography, ability, language, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or initial proficiencies. VSBA will incorporate principles of equity within all policies, operations, practices, and resource allocations, which may include the use of an equity lens when responding to proposed legislation.

The VSBA should demonstrate and promote the unequivocal, collective responsibility for equitable and inclusive education environments by recognizing, responding, and speaking out against injustice and racial inequity. In support of this goal, the VSBA commits to the following: 1. promote and support implicit bias training for all faculty and staff in Vermont public schools, including athletic and co-curricular personnel, and officials across the state; and 2. promote professional learning for school leaders and school board members that include but not be limited to: Equity Literacy, Curriculum Audits, Review Protocols for Examining Bias in School Policies and Procedures, Culturally Responsive Instruction and School Culture, Student Leadership and Voice, and Examining Power and Privilege in Schools.

Board Recommendation: Amend and continue as a continuing resolution - reflect changes to VT Public Accommodation Act (adding citizenship and immigration status).

Resolution III.J. SCHOOL STABILIZATION: STUDENT MOBILITY AND RESILIENCE [2020] *

For those entering or currently enrolled high school students whose fixed, permanent legal residence changes to a different fixed, permanent legal residence and who wish to remain in their current district, the General Assembly should provide an additional mechanism beyond 16 V.S.A § 822 to allow for students to complete their secondary education within the district where they were registered during any year in Grades 8-11. This mechanism should provide a process by which the current district retains the student in their ADM count, versus transferring the ADM

to the new district of legal residence. Nothing in this mechanism shall apply to students eligible for homeless status, who are protected under law.

Board Recommendation: Delete because this is financially challenging for small SDs and tuitioning SDs.

Resolution V.F. FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS [2023] * The VSBA supports a ban on the sale of flavored cigarettes, flavored e cigarettes and flavored substances that contain nicotine or are otherwise intended for use in an e-cigarette.

Board Recommendation: Delete because VT passed a ban in 2024.

Resolution V.G. RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION [2023] * The VSBA calls on the General Assembly to prohibit the use of restraint and seclusion in any learning environment that receives public funds from the State of Vermont, except when there is a threat of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others, and when it occurs in a manner that protects the safety of all children. Further, the VSBA calls for thorough data reporting requirements that would provide student demographic information, and the development and implementation of statewide technical assistance to promote positive development of youth through evidence-based, developmentally-appropriate programs. Technical assistance should address consistent and accurate reporting, to include demographic information.

Board Recommendation: Delete because data is reported and it is unclear what this resolution aims to achieve.

Resolution V.I. CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL [2024] The VSBA supports legislation that would require school districts to adopt a policy concerning use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices in schools. The policy shall address, at a minimum, the specific circumstances or time periods during which cell phone or personal electronic device use is permitted, when their use is prohibited, and any relevant exceptions for instances such as disability accommodation, medical need, or other emergency.

Board Recommendation: Delete because Act 72(2025) requires a policy to address this.