



Statement from **Flor Diaz Smith**, VSBA Board President,  
on behalf of the VSBA Board of Directors:

## **Report of the School District Redistricting Task Force**

The Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) is grateful for the work of the School District Redistricting Task Force, and we applaud the Task Force's measured, evidence-based, community-centered approach. The Vermont Regional Education Partnership Model proposed in the Task Force's [Report to the General Assembly](#) recommends three main strategies that we believe may advance some of the goals of Act 73 and merit further exploration.

The report underscores the urgency to address the cost drivers that have led to significant financial challenges statewide. We appreciate the Task Force's acknowledgement that they found no evidence that large-scale, mandated district mergers and consolidations would lower costs, improve educational outcomes, or expand equity.

We support in concept the Task Force's recommendation related to strategic voluntary mergers of school districts, guided by feasibility studies and designed to relieve fiscal pressures. At the same time, we recognize that the state has an important role to play in ensuring that any mergers result in a more equitable system of school districts, particularly so that voluntary partnerships do not exacerbate existing disparities in resources, opportunities, and outcomes for students.

VSBA remains committed to working closely with the General Assembly and other state and local leaders to devise plans that best serve the students and families in our communities. We will continue to advocate for the outcomes described in our position paper, ["Responsible Implementation of Act 73."](#)