Better Together:
Leading the Transformation of Public Education

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Leading a Change to Student-Centered Systems
Post-Secondary Attendance Gender & Poverty Gaps

Source: Vermont Student Assistance Corp, April 2014 Special Report
Nationwide the Achievement Gap is Narrowing

Source: NAEP, 8th Grade Math Scores
In Vermont, the Achievement Gap is Stagnant

Source: NAEP, 8th Grade Math Scores
Rising Costs, Declining Enrollment

Source: VT Agency of Education, K-12 Average Daily Membership Totals
Rising Costs, Declining Enrollment

Complex & Inefficient Governance System

School Districts: 277

Governing Entities: 330

School Board Members: 1,422

K-12 Public School Enrollment: 78,255

Education Fund Expenditures: $1.5 Billion
The Agenda for a World Class Education

Our Associations – as representatives of our public education system - believe that we cannot, in this era of global competition and rapidly changing economic conditions, be content with a good education system. We have much more work to do.

Vermont’s children require a world-class education system, a system that responds to every learner’s interests, aptitude and learning style in highly effective ways, a system that ensures all students have the opportunity to meet their full potential.
Assuring Success for Every Student
Supporting a New Vision for Teaching & Learning
Engaging and Supporting Families & Communities
Delivering and Using World-Class Technology
Providing Effective Leadership
Green Mountain Imperative: Engaging Vermonters in the Agenda
Green Mountain Imperative: A Call to Action
Major Policy Accomplishments Since 2013

✓ Flexible Pathways, Early College, Dual Enrollment, PLPs (2013)
✓ Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (2013)
✓ Free Lunches for All Reduced-Price Eligible Students (2013)
✓ Required Training for Board Chairs and Superintendents (2014)
✓ Universal Access to Prekindergarten (2014)
✓ Governance Reform (2015)
Governance Reform Since 2015

Vermont Superintendents Association

VERMONT SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

NOTE: These are best estimates as of 1/23/17. Study committees are still working and dates are subject to change.
Being Better Together

• **Purpose** – develop a clear vision and goals; use data & communications tools to make a compelling case for change

• **Partnership** – persuade other organizations/stakeholders to support the vision; develop a roadmap and assign responsibilities

• **Persistence** – keep the focus on students, broaden your base of supporters, and stay on message

• **Political Acuity** – understand and use formal and informal power relationships within organizations and within the political structure; time your advocacy to seize opportunities for advancing your goals
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