



TOWN OF  
**KILLINGTON**  
VERMONT

VLCT  
SEP 15 2014  
RECEIVED

September 9, 2014

Kevin Dorn  
City Manager, South Burlington  
City Hall  
575 Dorset Street,  
South Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Mr. Dorn,

On behalf of the citizens of the Town of Killington, thank you for hosting the recent conference on the need for the Legislature to enact reform of our education tax and funding system in 2015. We were encouraged by the participation of so many municipalities and school districts that are united in their opposition to the current education funding system and the immediate need for reform. We believe it is critical that we (as a group) harness the energy you helped cultivate and transform it into tangible legislative action in 2015.

To that end, we are sending the attached letter to our state representatives and senators asking them to take action in the upcoming legislative session. Please note that we are copying the Governor, Lt. Governor, and House and Senate leadership.

We believe that if all the municipalities and school districts that attended your conference signed the "Resolution for Sustainable Funding Reform" before November 1, we would help take a step towards achieving reform.

Furthermore, we would suggest we organize a lobby day in Montpelier at the kick off of the 2015 legislative session and invite the conference attendees (as well as all the other municipalities and school boards). We have copied Steven Jefferies at VLCT on this letter in hopes that he can assist in organizing such an effort.

Thank you again for your efforts. Please feel free to reach us anytime through our Town Manager, Seth Webb at [sethwebb@killingtontown.com](mailto:sethwebb@killingtontown.com) or 802-422-3241.

All the best,

Sincerely,

  
Patty McGrath

  
J. Christopher Bianchi

  
Ken Lee

**Killington Selectboard**

Cc: Steven Jefferies, Executive Director, VLCT

**RESOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE**

**EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM IN VERMONT:**

- Education Funding is a Statewide priority and needs to be addressed at the State level.
- In the past 10 years the Vermont student population has declined by 10,618 (or 10%)
- In the past 10 years Vermont education spending has increased by \$300 million (or 33%)
- In the past 10 years Vermont per student spending has increased by \$6,537 (or 60%)
- In the past 10 years reliance on education property taxes has increased nearly 7%
- Nearly 70% of Education spending is funded by property taxes.

*Vermont has reached its maximum capacity to support education funding through the Statewide Education property tax.*

Vermont cannot ignore the current trends and the limitations of our property tax base.

Without responsible funding system reforms, Vermont schools will be forced to undergo arbitrary and detrimental budget cuts that will affect the quality of education in Vermont.

**Vermont can achieve a sustainable Education future:**

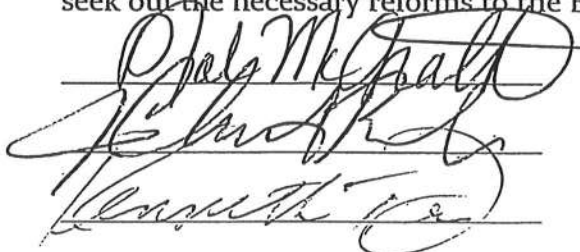
- Create a more diverse education funding system, sharing the costs equally between all our tax resources (income, sales, rooms & meals, and property taxes)
- Simplify the education funding system so it can be understood by the average taxpayer.

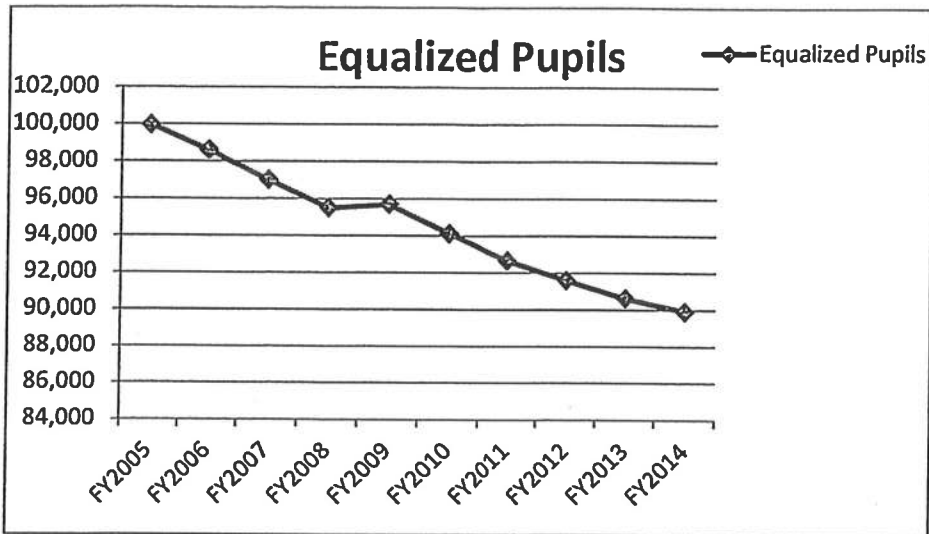
Continued reliance on the education property tax will have a material impact on local government's ability to provide vital services (police, fire, roads etc.) to residents.

*Therefore be it resolved that Vermont Towns & School Districts support capping Education Property Tax rates at FY2015 levels for the next 2 years, to allow the Legislature to make the necessary funding reforms that will sustain our Education system into the future.*

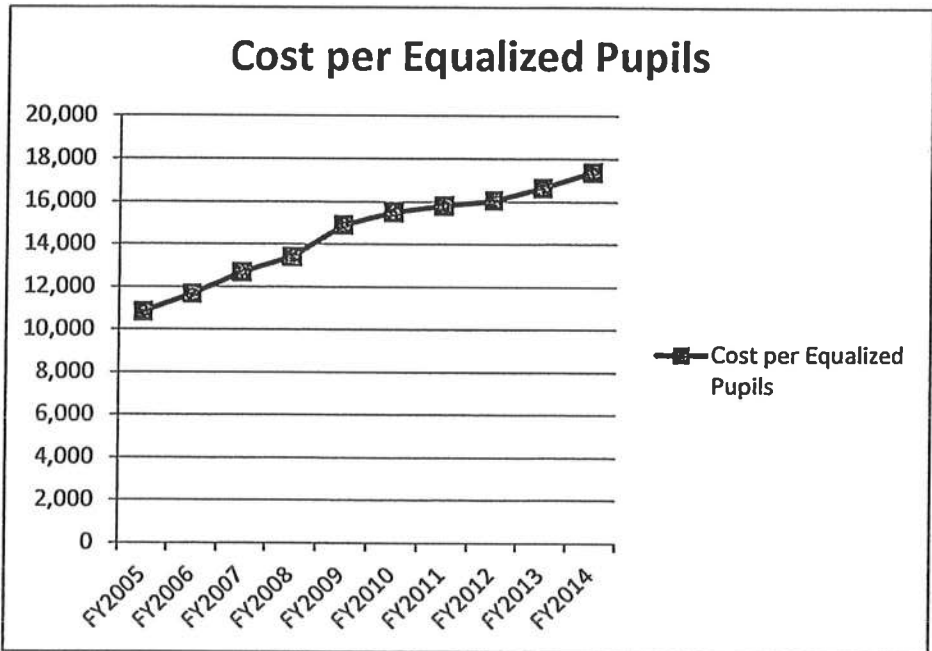
(It is not the intent of this resolution to cap overall education spending).

Be it further resolved on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of SEPTEMBER 2014, that the City/Town/  
Village/ School District of KILLINGTON supports the Vermont legislature as they seek out the necessary reforms to the Education funding system.

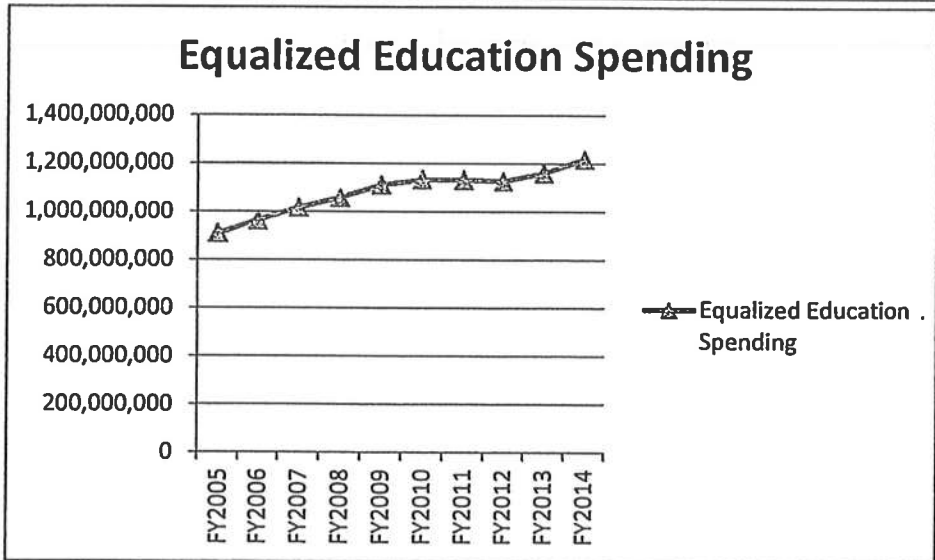
  
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Since FY2005 Vermont has 10,618 less students to educate



Since FY2005 Vermont's per student spending has increased by \$6,537 per student



Since FY2005 Equalized Education spending has increased by \$306,144,847<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Per pupil spending by School type, Vermont Dept. of Education; <http://education.vermont.gov/data/per-pupil-spending>