

For Discussion – Rep. Beck’s Education Funding System Recommendations

My recommendations to make a really good existing funding system work as intended would be:

1. Modernize Vermont's Education Quality Standards and resource AOE to enforce them.
2. Increase weighting for poverty, but not the amount UVM recommends.
3. More closely connect district spending decisions to their tax rate. Adopt a spending floor. The Picus adequacy study (about \$14,500 per pupil in FY20 dollars) would work.
4. Eliminate the excess spending threshold and penalty
5. Present CLA to taxpayers as an adjustment to their property value.

Avoid the rabbit holes: centralized control, elimination of income sensitivity, penalties, and district spending caps.