



May 19, 2026

To the WRVSU Community:

I am writing to our WRVSU community on behalf of the WRVSU Boards and the Rural School Community Alliance (RSCA) to urge our community members to write directly to the Governor and our elected Senators and Representatives to urge them to pass the current Senate version of H.955 into law. The current construct of **H.955 enacts CESAs (Cooperative Educational Service Areas) statewide and sets up a process for voluntary mergers.** School Boards will be required to participate in mandatory study committees and will have some input on the study committee they are placed in. At the end of the process, communities can vote **YES or NO** to establish a new, merged district. **There is no forced merger in this version of the bill.**

Therefore, I ask that you write the Governor and our elected officials with a clear and direct message.

Vermonters do not need to be forced into school district mergers. Vermonters value local democracy, community schools, and don't need unilateral forced mergers to increase student performance and demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

Please write in your own words. Here are some talking points to consider.

- **NO FORCED MERGER:** School Boards and communities are capable of studying and making their own decisions about potential district mergers (we've already proven this at WRVSU). Vermonters are willing and able to engage with objective research and analysis that informs their vote on whether or not to merge. Forced mergers typically don't save money, and they are disruptive to public education.

- **CESAs ARE A PROMISING ROUTE TO SAVINGS.**

Abundant national research and initial evidence from the first shared services model in Vermont demonstrate a path to savings that avoids disruption to schooling.

- **WHY THE GOVERNOR SHOULD TRUST SCHOOL BOARDS AND THE ELECTORATE TO MAKE SOUND DECISIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF SCHOOLING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.**

Please write anything else that you believe is important for the governor to hear regarding the need to support local votes and not forced mergers.

Thank you for taking this action and sending a letter to Governor Scott while copying your elected officials. That contact information is also provided below.

Jamie Kinnarney, Superintendent of Schools
Anda Adams, Chief Academic Officer
Rebekah Mortensen, Director of Special Services
Michaela Martin, MTSS Coordinator
Tara Weatherell, Business Manager
Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology & Communications



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This is the [LINK](#) to post a message to the governor.

I ask that you take the time to write to your elected officials also. That information is provided directly below.

Example Senator Alison Clarkson aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us Legislative Directory [HERE](#)

The WRVSU Town Legislators are also provided here (email addresses follow the same format as above):

Bethel: Sen. Alison Clarkson, Sen. Joe Major, Sen. Becca White, Rep. Kirk White

Chelsea: Sen. John Benson, Rep. Joshua Dobrovich

Granville: Sen. Ruth Hardy, Sen. Steven Heffernan, Rep. Jay Hooper, Rep. Larry Satcowitz

Hancock: Sen. Ruth Hardy, Sen. Steven Heffernan, Rep. Kirk White

Rochester: Sen. Ruth Hardy, Sen. Steven Heffernan, Rep. Kirk White

Royalton: Sen. Alison Clarkson, Sen. Joe Major, Sen. Becca White, Rep. John O'Brien

Sharon: Sen. Alison Clarkson, Sen. Joe Major, Sen. Becca White, Rep. Rebecca Holcombe, Rep. James Masland

Stockbridge: Sen. Alison Clarkson, Sen. Joe Major, Sen. Becca White, Rep. Kirk White

Strafford: Sen. John Benson, Rep. Rebecca Holcombe, Rep. James Masland

Tunbridge: Sen. John Benson, Rep. John O'Brien

The WRVSU Boards and the RSCA will continue to advocate on behalf of our students, families, and communities to make certain that unilateral and top-down consolidation isn't part of the solution to education transformation. We have and remain committed to collaborative solutions that maintain local democracy, and provide a path forward to addressing increased property taxes while preserving our schools. We believe that H.955 provides a path forward to doing just that!

With continued optimism,

Jamie Kinnarney,
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU