

Key Components of the Vermont Education Policy Service

The Vermont Education Policy Service (VEPS) provides five distinct levels of assistance to Vermont school boards and administrators.

1. Model Policies and Basic Policy Consultation

This service is available to all types of school boards as part of basic VSBA membership. The VEPS makes available regularly updated “Model Policies” which districts can use for guidance in revising policy manuals. VEPS assures that model policies are kept current with changes in federal and state law and regulation and notifies member districts of major changes that are needed. Districts can ask for guidance on policy interpretation questions and general policy manual development. Inquiries can be generated by either school superintendents or school board members.

Cost: Included as part of the VSBA annual membership.

2. Policy Review

VSBA attorneys will conduct a diagnostic scan of your district's policy manual in order to: determine what the strengths and weaknesses are, explain what is needed to bring it into compliance and design a recommended course of action for the district's policy committee. The VSBA attorney will come to one meeting of your policy committee, review the results of the diagnostic scan, and discuss next steps/recommended course of action.

The cost for this review and meeting is \$600.00 per district manual plus the travel cost for one meeting.

3. Policy Development/Plan Implementation

VSBA attorneys will work with the policy committee to implement the course of action, including: drafting proposed policies, meeting with the committee to guide and inform decision-making on specific policies, and laying the foundation for an effective policy process that will ensure the manual is maintained in a timely and effective manner.

The cost for this service will be negotiated based on the scope of the work needed.

4. Other Specialized Services

In the volatile world of potential school governance changes, VEPS is prepared to assist districts in modifying policy structure as needed. Examples of the types of situations that may prompt a need for policy assistance are:

1. The districts of a supervisory union decide to create a single, consistent policy manual
2. Districts are merging to create a Regional Education District and new policies need to be adopted with a single manual

3. Services are being centralized, requiring additional policy work at the supervisory union level

Cost: Some of these may fall under a Policy Review. This work would be treated as a customized service with a specially negotiated price.

5. Five-Year Review

School Districts must make sure that policy is regularly reviewed and updated and that it is being implemented through procedures or in practice. VEPS can provide a policy review (recommended to be reviewed every five years) to provide general feedback to the district or S.U. on the state of policy in the district or S.U. services are similar to those outlined in #2.

Cost: The 5-year review would be billed as a policy review.

For more information about Policy Services, please contact Emily Simmons at 800-244-8722 or send email to Esimmons@vtvsba.org

*This policy service is brought to you by
The Vermont School Boards Association and the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust*