VSBA / VSA 2026 Annual Conference

Leading Through Change: Clarity, Courage, and Community

Remembering Dr. William J. Mathis
1944-2026



"Our future lies with all our children.
All must be contributors to our society."

– Dr. William J. Mathis

Amanda Brigham, et al. v. State of Vermont

In this appeal, we decide that the current system for funding public education in Vermont, with its substantial dependence on local property taxes and resultant wide disparities in revenues available to local school districts, deprives children of an equal educational opportunity in violation of the Vermont Constitution. (Vermont Supreme Court; 166 Vt. 246, 692 A.2d 384, February 5, 1997)

Amanda Brigham, et al. v. State of Vermont

The State may delegate to local towns and cities the authority to finance and administer the schools within their borders; it cannot, however, abdicate the basic responsibility for education by passing it on to the local governments, which are themselves creations of the State. (Vermont Supreme Court; 166 Vt. 246, 692 A.2d 384, February 5, 1997)

Amanda Brigham, et al. v. State of Vermont

To keep a democracy competitive and thriving, students must be afforded equal access to all that our educational system has to offer. In the funding of what our Constitution places at the core of a successful democracy, the children of Vermont are entitled to a reasonably equal share. (Vermont Supreme Court; 166 Vt. 246, 692 A.2d 384, February 5, 1997)