



STATE OF VERMONT
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

Press Release
The Cost of an Adequate Education in Vermont:
Public Forums to Be Held on November 10th and 11th

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 30, 2015
Contact: Theresa Utton-Jerman
Phone: 802-828-2295
E-mail: tutton@leg.state.vt.us

Act 46, enacted last legislative session, directed the Joint Fiscal Office to contract for a study of the cost of an adequate education in Vermont. Picus Odden & Associates was selected to conduct the adequacy study, which commenced in August.

Lawrence Picus, Allan Odden and two other members of their team will be in Vermont on November 10th and 11th. They will respond to questions and comments, and solicit ideas, from the public on the adequacy study. **Four public forums are scheduled as follows:**

November 10th – 6pm

- **Bellows Falls** - Bellows Falls Middle School, 15 School Street, Bellows Falls
- **St. Albans** - Superintendent's Conference Room, 28 Catherine St., St. Albans

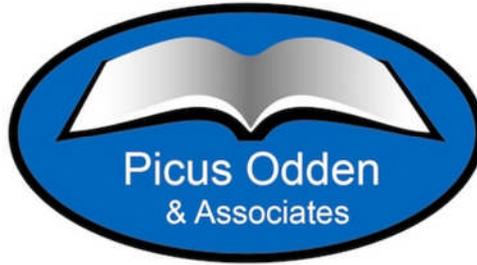
November 11th – 6pm

- **Montpelier** - Montpelier High School Library, 5 High School Dr, Montpelier
- **Burlington** - Robert Miller Center, Miller Community Room, 130 Gosse Court, Burlington

Picus Odden & Associates has prepared an initial report that describes their Evidence Based model and summarizes the research supporting their recommendations. It will be available for review on the JFO website after November 4 at:

http://www.leg.state.vt.us/jfo/education_adequacy.aspx.

For more information about the format of these events, email Theresa Utton-Jerman or Mark Perrault, Joint Fiscal Office, tutton@leg.state.vt.us or mperrault@leg.state.vt.us or call 802-828-2295.



EVIDENCE-BASED STUDY OF THE COST OF AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION IN VERMONT

Picus Odden & Associates has been retained to conduct the school finance adequacy study required by Act 46 (2015). We will use our Evidence-Based approach to help Vermont estimate the cost of an adequate school funding system.

School Finance Adequacy is commonly defined as an adequate level of resources to give all students an equal opportunity to achieve their state's performance standards and be successful in college or the workplace.

The Evidence-Based model relies on education research on what works in schools to improve student learning, develops prototypical schools with the resources needed to provide that level of education, and estimates the costs of those resources, along with the district resources needed to support those schools.

The study includes five major components:

1. Initial meetings with policymakers, stakeholders and other interested parties. These meetings took place on September 10th and 11th.
2. Development of a simulation model to estimate the costs of adequacy in Vermont schools. This model will be designed to both estimate costs for schools, as currently organized, and to simulate the potential costs of alternative district structures as districts work to establish new organizations that meet the structures outlined in Act 46.
3. Professional Judgment Panels to seek the views of education professionals as to the adequacy of the Evidence-Based funding level in Vermont. These panels will be held on November 10th and 11th at locations throughout the State. We are conducting public input sessions in the evenings following the panels in each of the four locations.
4. Case studies of improving schools. We are visiting five schools with a record of improvement in student performance to understand the educational and organizational strategies they have implemented to maintain their success.
5. Reporting to the Legislature. We will provide a written report of our findings and share our findings with the Legislature during the 2016 Legislative Session.

We welcome thoughts and ideas from interested individuals as we continue our work.