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Letter to the Barstow Unified Union School District Community from the BUUSD Board

April 30, 2025

Dear Community Members,

Education reform has been a primary topic of the Vermont legislature during this session. The resulting legislation will greatly affect our schools and communities for years to come. Different ideas and proposals are being debated, and it can be hard to keep up with all the details. Still, it is important that we stay informed and involved.

Here is what we know so far:

- A new education funding system is being considered, one that would use a foundational formula that gives a set amount of money per student. This change would give more authority to the state — and less to local taxpayers — to determine how much money school districts receive.
- School district consolidation will happen to a yet-to-be determined number of school districts. This means there will be fewer school boards in the state.
- There are two proposed timelines for school district restructuring: one that would be completed by fall of 2026 and the other by July 2029.
- Other possible changes include minimum class sizes, minimum school sizes, statewide graduation requirements, limits on tuitioning, and new rules and funds for school construction.

The BUUSD Board is closely watching these developments. However, as a board, we have just one voice. We encourage all community members to learn about [H.454 as passed by the House](#) and [draft 4.1 of H.454](#) currently under consideration in the Senate. And share your opinions now.

Two of our local senators, Senator Weeks (dweeks@leg.state.vt.us) and Senator Williams (tkwilliams@leg.state.vt.us), are on the Senate Education Committee, which plays a key role in shaping this bill. Please reach out to them with your questions or concerns this week..

Please attend our regular board meeting on **Monday, May 19th at 6:00 p.m.**, where we will discuss these changes further—hopefully, with Senator Weeks and Senator Williams, who have been invited.

Everyone in our community will be impacted by the education reform and our local school district will look different on the other end of it. Thank you for staying informed and involved.

—The Barstow Unified Union School District (BUUSD) Board

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