



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

January 10, 2012

Senator Robert Hartwell, Chair
Senate Institutions Committee

Representative Alice Emmons, Chair
House Institutions Committee

Re: School Construction Aid

Dear Representative Emmons and Senator Hartwell:

Pursuant to Title 16 VSA §3448, each January, the State Board of Education submits to the Senate and House Institutions Committees its annual capital construction funding request.

On November 15, 2011 the board approved a two-year capital funding request to pay off the outstanding balance of state obligation for state aid owed on completed school construction projects.

The State Board asks that school districts be paid as soon as possible; the request submitted to the administration suggests \$7,425,000 for FY13, which was the budgeted amount in the 2011 Capital Bill. The board's suggestion is that emergency projects and asset renewal projects be paid off, each eligible school district with a biomass project be paid approximately 18% of the state balance owed, and each other school district be paid approximately half of the state balance of school construction aid owed to the district.

The total outstanding state obligation for projects approved before the suspension (excluding the allowance for emergencies) is \$20,206,707 as detailed on the attached spreadsheet.

Together with department staff, including Cathy Hilgendorf of the School Finance team, I am available to meet with your committee should you need additional information or clarification of the funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Armando Vilaseca".

Armando Vilaseca
Commissioner of Education
Enc.

cc: Fayneese Miller, Chair, State Board of Education
Bill Talbott, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education
Michael Obuchowski, Commissioner, Buildings and General Services
Rep. Donovan, Chair, House Education Committee
Sen. Mullin, Chair, Senate Education Committee

