

# School Choice in Vermont

## Q2 Please share a comment or School Choice Story:

Answered: 185 Skipped: 215

Text

#	Responses	Date
1	school choice can be ruinous for small towns	3/30/2015 1:51 AM
2	The local schools know what they are doing this is just one more step to privatization please stop putting such stupid ideas out in a progressive state move to Texas	3/28/2015 12:13 PM
3	Here in North Bennington we have no choice for grades 7-12, leaving the supervisory union's MAU middle and high schools the only option for area families. Both of these schools have been on the list of the State's "failing" schools for approximately a decade. Although the federal law states that districts with failing schools are required to provide alternatives, the Vermont State Dept of Ed feels that Vermont is not required to comply with the federal mandate, leaving sub-par education the only option for families who can not afford the send their children to the numerous private and independent schools in the area. Meanwhile, how many generations of students are filtering through without an appropriate education? Even successful students are overlooked by colleges when they consider the low standards of the Bennington area schools. School choice would not only force accountability within our area schools and competition which would further increase standards and cut wasteful spending. Every family should have the right to decide the appropriate learning environment for their children.	3/24/2015 3:46 PM
4	Choice at the H.S. level in our area exists with St J Academy and Lyndon Institute. We have benefitted from this situation for more than 100 years. The rest of the state needs to catch up an enjoy the benefits.	3/22/2015 11:07 AM
5	Choice is a proven good in Vermont	3/21/2015 11:07 PM
6	It has been shown to work in many districts by saving money. It is time for the legislators listen to the people.	3/21/2015 1:05 PM
7	School choice was not available where we lived when my daughter was growing up, so I was forced to decide whether to pay dearly for an alternative or watch her flounder in the public school. As with so many things, the government likes to take a "one size fits all" approach and ram it down our throats. We need to keep choice in schools, health care, and so many other areas. People (adults and children) are all unique, with different needs, skill sets and learning styles, and should have the freedom to decide what works best for them.	3/21/2015 12:42 AM
8	I work at a private elementary school. My children would greatly benefit from attending however I can't afford to send them.	3/19/2015 6:17 AM
9	They are MY educational tax dollars, therefore I should have s choice in how/where they are spent on MY children!	3/17/2015 4:20 PM
10	My children have benefitted from school choice out of Kirby. They even chose different secondary schools.	3/15/2015 8:35 AM
11	Tired of committing monies we do not have.	3/14/2015 9:47 AM
12	This is ridiculous. It is a way for conservative organizations like Ethan Allen Institute to spread their agenda of tax dollars going to religious-based education programs. It also provides no solutions for how to deal with transportation, particularly for low income families who cannot afford to transport their children to "better" schools. It drains tax dollars away from those who need it most.	3/14/2015 9:04 AM
13	High school only	3/13/2015 9:48 PM
14	I wish my child had school choice as we are part of a union middle and high school that do not meet her needs.	3/13/2015 8:04 PM
15	We pay some of the highest taxes in the state in South Burlington yet still choose to send our child to private school because it's what is best for their personal needs right now. it's a heavy burden to pay for both.	3/13/2015 4:41 PM
16	St Johnsbury	3/13/2015 4:32 PM
17	I do not know what makes the cost of a child's education so expensive. Is it the books they use, heating of the building, electricity, food or teachers salaries and benefits? If it the latter that can be dealt with by eliminating some teachers AND aides, put more children in a class, have books they use year after year, eliminate laptops for children and separate the handicapped children.	3/13/2015 4:23 PM

## School Choice in Vermont

18	the transportation concerns would, in many instances, make school choice prohibitive. furthermore, changing schools doesn't necessarily mean that a young person will automatically perform better/become more educated. We bring who we are wherever we go.	3/13/2015 3:06 PM
19	Unions prevent teachers from being criticized and improving their methods based on student performance. Politics impact education: control over spending is at a bare minimum for locals, federal guidelines do not take communities into account. I once taught and now ashamed to admit it.	3/13/2015 10:44 AM
20	one size does not fit all. Families need to have a choice as to what suits their individual student's needs. Competition is great as it keeps all parties honest and allows for an overall better product however the Dept of Ed has a monopoly on education. Yes there are private school options (very few in Vermont) however they are not on the same playing field as families need to make huge financial sacrifices to have their student attend a private school. They end up paying twice - taxes and tuition.	3/12/2015 11:22 PM
21	My kids are either going to be forced into going to a school 30 minutes in the wrong direction from anywhere we go, OR we will have to move to a smaller place closer to town. In addition, my 5 year old just missed the date cutoff for Kindergarten. At no point did a fair assessment take place and she was denied entry to public school based on her readiness and professional opinion. We chose to send her to private school, however if would have been nice to choose a public school with a different cut off date	3/12/2015 10:59 PM
22	Public education is not working for every family or every student. Families who know it isn't working for their students (and where it may be potentially burdening the school system) often cannot afford to make that change because they are required to tuition their students (on top of paying high state ed taxes). Other families simply wish for a different environment/feel for their student's education. They wish to be more involved, more active and participatory. Public education currently does not easily or readily support that.	3/12/2015 10:40 PM
23	VT ranks top in nation for education. WHY change to this?? School choice does NOT equal increased academic success. The research just does not support it. States that have adopted school choice are no competition for our fantastic Vt public choice. Do not put reduced taxes above what is most important: our childrens' education.	3/11/2015 9:33 PM
24	All children and their parents have a right to school choice.	3/11/2015 6:00 PM
25	We live in Halifax, VT. we have 2 close public school options. Both would not work for my child's style of learning. plus at one of the schools, he gets bullied. since we live close to the MA boarder, there are a few MA schools that have good learning options for my child. Not to mention diversity.	3/11/2015 9:05 AM
26	School choice is so important because it is the parent's decision as to the type of education that parents want for their children	3/10/2015 8:00 PM
27	I have three kids in three different schools. I live in choice town and it is so important to me. I was part of an interview that you guys did in Manchester a couple of years ago	3/10/2015 2:00 PM
28	In the Southern part of the state especially, mandatory consolidation has NOT demonstrated significant cost savings for the districts and in fact puts additional costs and often time requirements on working parents.	3/10/2015 7:48 AM
29	Children learn at different levels and have different interests. Adults do not all work at the same jobs for many different reasons and different pay scales. We expect children to go to school every day for the simple reason you need a good education but learning environments differ so much from school to school. My children attend the St. Johnsbury Academy and what a feeling when they get up for school and get ready without a fight looking forward to there day. I see every child as an investment in our future and we need to give them all the tools to succeed and that in my opinion starts with total school choice.	3/10/2015 5:45 AM
30	Please leave the system as it is, discontinue supervisory unions, and fix our education funding!	3/10/2015 1:14 AM
31	I think schools should be consolidated. In Dover we have a pre school to sixth grade. Ninety students. Why are we paying a principal big bucks or teachers in that school big bucks to teach a class of 12 students. Unreasonable	3/9/2015 9:03 PM
32	I can make sure my children are in the schools that best meet their individual needs	3/9/2015 8:19 PM
33	school choice is a the beginning of a corporate takeover of the great public school systems.	3/9/2015 11:10 AM
34	How many members of the NEA would like to be compelled to only have one vehicle to choose from, time to move forward	3/9/2015 7:20 AM
35	having the opportunity provides the parents a feeling of accomplishment that they are helping their child especially if their child is having difficulty. Also would help keep younger families in our state..	3/9/2015 6:15 AM

## School Choice in Vermont

36	informative; children learn differently, why should they have to go to all the same schools. in my family, we have kids that need that difference.	3/9/2015 4:31 AM
37	AsThe parent of a child with moderate special needs I can whole heartedly say that we would benefit greatly by having the opportunity to choose for ourselves the school that we felt would best fit his needs and help h reach his greatest learning potential.	3/8/2015 7:41 PM
38	I grew up in a town without a high school, and we were given school choice. While some classmates chose to go to a larger high school with a reputation for great academics, I knew I would be more comfortable at a small school. I am happy, even 15+ years later, that I had that choice. I thrived in a small school and had much more opportunities to participate in sports and activities that I would not have been "good enough" for at a large school.	3/8/2015 7:13 PM
39	You are an idiot to think school choice would work all around the state. How about the state pays for all teacher salaries and benefits and all special education students. Maybe then they would take education reform seriously and our students could go back to learning instead of making do with the scraps left over.	3/8/2015 5:22 PM
40	I think school choice is a good thing.	3/8/2015 3:46 PM
41	Being locked into sending our children to the local public school is a disservice to all concerned. Those of us who pay school taxes, but can't afford to send our kids out of district, don't think it's fair at all. Everyone should send their children to the school that meets their needs, not just the only school thats "free".	3/8/2015 2:08 PM
42	Choice fr control NOT by the State of VT , US the taxpayers	3/8/2015 12:50 PM
43	In our district a couple of towns have a choice for high school the others do not. The ones with a choice almost to a family decide against our union high school in favor of one of the other choices in the area. There is no incentive for schools to change as long as they have a captive population.	3/8/2015 10:24 AM
44	School choice will force underperforming schools to improve or close some will say that school closers would be terrible but better schools will rise in their place!!	3/8/2015 9:07 AM
45	School choice is a laudable goal however I don't neccessarily agree with the outcome portrayed in the question. Perhaps, but certainly not a given as asserted.	3/8/2015 8:41 AM
46	Much of school choice has become all about athletics, not about academics, advantaged kids with savvy parents maneuvering them to a school for the wrong reasons. Time to turn the page and put a stop to this.	3/7/2015 11:03 PM
47	I teach at a choice school; all of us work very hard to attract students and families. In a real sense our jobs depend on it.	3/7/2015 7:46 PM
48	who will be responsible and pay for all the mandates? not sure how you could have phrased the question in a more biased and one sided mannor.	3/7/2015 7:42 PM
49	Both of my children struggled academically at MMUHS and for my younger son we are looking at another school that might be a better fit for him. We may end up paying our school taxes in addition to another school simply for him to be successful. Not just successful though. He is not learning! What kind of future is that for young Vermonters?	3/7/2015 7:41 PM
50	We are hoping to get the school of our choice to best meet my son's needs.	3/7/2015 7:16 PM
51	Don't Subjugate. Innovate. Choice is always good. Change for the better.	3/7/2015 6:23 PM
52	The type of education a child receives should depend on the individual. Public school is great for some while Waldorf, Montessori, or an alternative environment works better for some.	3/7/2015 6:22 PM
53	As a firm supporter of public schools, I couldn't imagine having become a school choice advocate. But over the last few years, 3 of my 4 children have left public school. My oldest attends a fledgling independent high school, and the money from school choice would be a great financial boost to the school. While we donate our time, we don't have the funds to pay his tuition. Yet he has blossomed in his last two years there in a way we never saw at public school.	3/7/2015 5:06 PM
54	Have a hard time paying property taxes since my husband passed,losing his income really has hurt	3/7/2015 1:16 PM
55	this will help all of Vermont - it's time!	3/7/2015 11:47 AM
56	It is a concept that has worked very well for Kirby residents	3/7/2015 9:29 AM
57	Rich get richer poor get left behind	3/7/2015 8:54 AM

## School Choice in Vermont

58	School choice enables us to send our children to a quality school outside of our failing district. They are more prepared to be college freshman. They had a choice to attend their senior year at their home school or enroll in the VAST program. Had we not had this choice our high school seniors would have been force to take classes at a college in order to be challenged academicy. School choice may indeed close some of the lesser performing schools but isn't the end go al to have highly qualified and prepared students graduating from high school?	3/7/2015 8:15 AM
59	I think school choice will improve all all schools	3/7/2015 8:01 AM
60	This will lead to school segregation, based on less fortunate parents being "stuck" at one school and affluent parents moving to a "better school".	3/7/2015 7:21 AM
61	We have 2 mainstreamed autistic boys that need a smaller school environment. In order to do this we had to sell our house and move to the town that had what we needed. Even it was only 15 minutes away. This is wrong	3/7/2015 6:21 AM
62	Religious schools should be included if they are approved educational institutions.	3/7/2015 5:21 AM
63	Special education students can benefit greatly! Especially the 1% that not every school knows how to educate!	3/6/2015 8:00 PM
64	I think it should also be opened up the religious schools.	3/6/2015 7:06 PM
65	History shows the positive benefits of School Choice!	3/6/2015 7:02 PM
66	ALL of Vermont's Schools are TOP HEAVY with Teachers and Administrators. UNION Contracts are the biggest reasons for the BLOATED BUDGETS. Many teaching positions MUST be RIFFED at contract time. I would also like to see a Right to work law in place to ELIMINATE coerced payments to Unions.	3/6/2015 6:34 PM
67	We bought a house in a town that we grew up in. The school system was dramatically better when we were students here. We love our home and community, but we want the best educational opportunities for our son. School consolidation may yield results years down the road. But, my son will graduate in 2021 -we don't have a lot of time to mess around with this.	3/6/2015 6:08 PM
68	It sure worked for our family	3/6/2015 5:50 PM
69	Children from sending towns are treated as "Outsidersby students and staff alike.Having to catch a bus doesn't often allow the students to participate in after school activities.Communications from"Receiving schools " isn't very good.A school bus is a poor classroom.I would like to testify based on actual experience	3/6/2015 5:35 PM
70	School choice will lead to a diminishment of the connection between schools and communities. If you think you've got a school that could be improved, go to a school board meeting and work to change it. Conservatives have pushed the free market analogy too far. You aren't a consumer of a school; you are being trained to be a citizen in school. Schools should remain community centered.	3/6/2015 5:24 PM
71	We spend money on Catholic school, some say it cost so much, it is CHEAPER than the State Run crap schools.	3/6/2015 5:21 PM
72	We have statewide school property taxes, we should have statewide school choice.	3/6/2015 5:12 PM
73	This should be a no-brainer; but then, so should "right to work" laws; sadly only a pipe-dream in this socialist utopio of Vermont.	3/6/2015 5:07 PM
74	The kids whose parents can't transfer them, don't understand their options or, more likely, couldn't give a damn, will be left behind in failing schools when their betters abandon them. We need to figure out how to improve ALL of our local schools. Local schools are vital to our sense of community in state where towns have a lot of empty space between them.	3/6/2015 4:28 PM
75	full of lies and half truths	3/6/2015 4:21 PM
76	My daughter won a "sc" lottery in 2000 and it was incredible to give options to her for Ed.	3/6/2015 4:14 PM
77	School chice will ask schols to be better at educating our children, not jsut doing the same thing over and over again.ng	3/6/2015 3:41 PM
78	including private school tuition vouchers	3/6/2015 3:41 PM
79	Much of Roper's presentation is factually inaccurate. While there are some sucesses in charter schools, most of them do not produce better outcomes for children. Roper dramatically understates the issues around special needs and transportation.	3/6/2015 3:15 PM
80	Only if there is a way that the poorer families in our many communities can be provided with thetransportation - it is this cost alone that that could make this a "great thing for the wealthy".	3/6/2015 11:29 AM
81	It makes so much sense. Let's see what parents rewally want for their kids!!!	3/6/2015 10:33 AM

## School Choice in Vermont

82	As long as our students excel, are exposed to STEM to excel in a technology driven digital economy while cutting the burden on Tax Payers, I am all for it!	3/6/2015 10:02 AM
83	Some schools offer more programs than others. It would be nice too for parents since some of us have to travel so far for work. It could put our child's school closer to our work keeping us from leaving work early to go pick them up.	3/6/2015 9:24 AM
84	This is Trojan Horse to divert necessary funds from publi education into a charter school movement plagued by scandal across the country for misappropriation of funds and poor educational outcomes.	3/6/2015 9:18 AM
85	Some schools are to worried about getting sued! They neglect the students!	3/6/2015 8:40 AM
86	All students 7-12	3/5/2015 11:26 PM
87	St Johnsbury Academy and Lyndon Institute draw students from out of state. Academy offers superior academic experience at a cost below the statewide average for high school.	3/5/2015 11:18 PM
88	this is a bad idea. more and more ststudents are believing in going to schools for sports or one or two programs on our tax dollars. it's pushing tax dollars out of control	3/5/2015 9:44 PM
89	Our son is in 4th grade at an independent/private school in Middlebury. Although we live in Orwell, both my husband and I work to the North in Burlington because there is greater economic opportunity in Chittenden County. Once our son graduates from 6th grade, if he were to attend a public middle school, he would need to spend 7th and 8th grade at Orwell Village School. Then, Fair Haven High School. Both Orwell School and Fair Haven present grave logistical difficulties for us as our lives are focused to the north, not south of our home. This would represent significant problems in bad weather and add 3 extra hours to our daily commute. If school choice were available, we could send our child to school in Middlebury for 7th - 12th grade, as we currently do, but without the need to pay tuition to a private school as we do now because there is no school choice for us. We are paying twice for our son's education. Once to his actual school and again in property taxes for a space in a public school that he does not attend for reasons beyond our control. Additionally, all of our sons' friends and peer group since kindergarden will be in the Addison Supervisory Union and he would be separated from them after 6th grade. Please make school choice available to all Vermont families.	3/5/2015 9:28 PM
90	You call this a "survey?" It's even less valid than the Doyle Poll, if such a thing is possible.	3/5/2015 9:18 PM
91	Long overdue	3/5/2015 8:26 PM
92	we would have more choices of towns to live in if we knew we could choose to keep our kids in their current school	3/5/2015 8:24 PM
93	I'm in real estate. This would make more towns desirable to own homes in.	3/5/2015 7:48 PM
94	My child has a learning style that doesn't work well with our local schools, it costs us a small fortune to pay for a private school where she is thriving, our income is below the poverty level and grants are insufficient.	3/5/2015 7:17 PM
95	Twin Valley has so little to offer compared to some of our neighboring towns. My kids deserve more opportunity!	3/5/2015 7:06 PM
96	I will have to move into Londonderry in order for my child to attend Flood Brook elementary because it is a better school than Jamaica	3/5/2015 7:02 PM
97	If all students had school choice people wouldn't have to sell their homes !	3/5/2015 6:24 PM
98	non scientific, biased approach to polling, Shame on you.	3/5/2015 5:53 PM
99	Our highschool is going down the tubes, and in a few years my daughter will have to go there, because I have no other choice. Budget cuts due to voters vetoing have caused nearly every "extra" (languages, etc) to be cancelled.	3/5/2015 5:49 PM
100	My chdren are in a very small high school, with mediocre test scores, and extremely high taxes. I do not feel it's worthwhile keeping the school open.	3/5/2015 3:28 PM
101	It would encourage healthy competition between the schools to provide services that draw students to their establishments - leading to lower taxes maybe but better more importantly better education	3/5/2015 2:47 PM
102	I lived in AZ for 14 years - charter schools are very effective- they make public schools compete for students!	3/5/2015 1:35 PM
103	there are 2 other Schools within reasonable distance, and offer their students so much more!!!!	3/5/2015 11:54 AM

## School Choice in Vermont

104	We homeschool in Winooski because there is NO other option. School officials even agree that my child would have to wait for her "peers" to catch up to her. I inquired about moving her to another school district, and I would even be willing to transport and was shot down immediately. One, it wasn't offered for grammar school, only high school and 2.) there would have to be a steady ratio... which means if 1 child goes to out one child from that school has to come in. Ridiculous.	3/5/2015 11:32 AM
105	Vernon, VT, has school choice.	3/5/2015 10:20 AM
106	School choice should include religious schools. Kids should be allowed to thrive in their selected environment	3/5/2015 8:28 AM
107	This enables a parent to choose the best learning environment for their child.	3/5/2015 7:36 AM
108	Our district has offered school choice for as long as I can remember (30+ yrs), including out of state tuition. It is one of the greatest freedoms of choice over the allocation of tax money I can think of.	3/5/2015 5:57 AM
109	Public schools in my district to a very good job. The few families that want choice take advantage of the current system.	3/5/2015 12:43 AM
110	Elitism; only consider this if all schools must accept any and all students who apply...even then there will occur a bias against those students whose parents may not bother applying. Public schools must not be the 'default' or 'dumping ground'!	3/4/2015 10:57 PM
111	I live in Belvidere	3/4/2015 10:57 PM
112	I'm an eleven year veteran school board chair so I have a little experience with public schools in Vermont. I completely agree with school choice as it will provide parents with the ability to choose from a much bigger pool of resources in their efforts to provide their children with a perfect match to their children's needs.	3/4/2015 10:55 PM
113	I moved to Vermont 15 years ago for my children to attend a k-8 school then have choice.	3/4/2015 10:24 PM
114	Religious schools should also be included.	3/4/2015 9:59 PM
115	I don't have a choice about where I can send my son to school and the quality of education in our district has fallen sharply. My family has lived on this property for 5 generations. This is our home. I shouldn't have to move to get my son a good education.	3/4/2015 8:59 PM
116	I believe in school choice. However, at this point I am leaning towards not supporting universal statewide choice. I also understand the decision of parents to move to a particular town because of the school. That's what we did and that's what my parents did. I have heard of instances where residents live in a school choice town and only 35% send their students to the independent school in the town. The other 65% send their kids to schools in surrounding towns with the majority of the 65% sending their kids to one particular K-8 school. I need to research how school choice reduces the tax burden on residents	3/4/2015 7:27 PM
117	I believe parents who wish to home school their children should be able to and have funds available to them rather than having to have to pay for school taxes in your property tax. It makes sense also to not have to pay school property taxes if you no longer have children in your home.	3/4/2015 5:42 PM
118	We don't have. Our local school isn't a good fit for our child. BUT as a special education student, who would take her without the reimbursement money? Would it follow her? AND...does school choice mean only wealthy families will have it? AND...what happens when more families want their kids in Manchester, Stowe and Dummerston than those schools can hold? I have lots of quesitons....	3/4/2015 3:17 PM
119	Giving children and their parents the option to choose where to attend school allows families to chose what's best for their child(ren). When kids are in the best environment for them personally they will be more likely to thrive and excell there, in education and as people.	3/4/2015 3:04 PM
120	local school board members in Westminster tried to outlaw school choice once already	3/4/2015 1:39 PM
121	I teach in an area high school and my daughter would like to attend the same school but because we live in a different district she may not be able to attend her school of choice.	3/4/2015 1:06 PM
122	We have the perfect make up to try school Choice.	3/4/2015 12:47 PM
123	Do not stop at public schools. Choice is choice, it's not you can choose from this list. It says you can choose from any school. When are we going to learn that children learn best where they and the family fit it.	3/4/2015 11:55 AM
124	VT needs to step back in time a few years, reexamine some of the directives that were instituted and determine realistic, affordable options for fair school funding and fairness to tax payers. This should not be a partisan fight.	3/4/2015 11:32 AM

## School Choice in Vermont

125	My high school had a system set up for school choice, with a neighboring school in a different district. Although I didn't chose to switch schools, my brother did and he was much happier and had more choices for Honor and AP courses than I had. He has more opportunities than I did in high school, which wouldn't have been possible without school choice.	3/4/2015 10:36 AM
126	competition is sorely needed in education. give parents power to decide where to educate their children	3/4/2015 10:06 AM
127	I believe this is a method to allow excellent teachers to become noticed and poor teachers to seek other work.	3/4/2015 9:12 AM
128	I have 2 very different children. One would excel at a larger school and one at a smaller school. But yet our school board set the lottery limits at 5 in and 5 out per year. I put my daughter into the lottery and she was "picked" as #7 of 7. With only 2 spots open that year, she obviously would have no chance of receiving the lottery choice. She is an A student and excellent athlete. I absolutely believe the school did not want her to leave and that they were dishonest in the "drawing". But I have no proof, and I did not register a complaint on this. It is a shame that to meet the needs of ONE of my children I would have to MOVE or to pay tuition amounting to \$11,000 a year. I believe that families should be able to have choices so that our children can find the opportunity that fits them best. I believe that the school boards should not be able to set limits. I under the "business" end of the process, but these are children's lives we are talking about.	3/4/2015 8:48 AM
129	Expanding school choice undermines equal access to primary education. In places like New Orleans where charter schools took over for public schools, the lack of Special Ed and other services saved money, but they created huge gaps and family hardship. We should encourage families to get involved in their local schools and be more active with their kids.	3/4/2015 7:55 AM
130	Citizens need to take ownership for their schools, not sit passively and make choices.	3/4/2015 5:40 AM
131	townline through driveway..why drive 6 miles, when I can walk over to closer town?	3/3/2015 10:58 PM
132	Public school is a shared responsibility, not a special deal for the wealthy or the ideological.	3/3/2015 10:35 PM
133	Public schools are the foundation of our communities, and with choice many families will be left behind - the ones for whom transportation or other barriers would rule out a real choice. Invest in local schools, engage parents, and stop trying to impose a free market solution on something that should be considered a public good.	3/3/2015 10:28 PM
134	When have monopolies ever delivered the best product or service? Compass School in Westminster, VT is a school choice success story. <a href="http://compass-school.org/">http://compass-school.org/</a>	3/3/2015 10:13 PM
135	This is a VERY deceptive survey! Of course I believe in school choice, among PUBLIC schools that follow the same rules and accept all students. Please share this with the legislature as well as the pro-independent school comments this is intended to solicit.	3/3/2015 7:37 PM
136	School choice should include ALL school choices including religious schools that meet education standards	3/3/2015 6:54 PM
137	School Choice will perpetuate a divide between the have and have nots in our state because the poor cannot afford to transport their children all over the state like the rich can. Towns with school choice have NOT shown smaller budgets. People should get involved in their own community schools to make them better. Keep our children in our community. Stop state and federal unfunded mandates.	3/3/2015 5:49 PM
138	Our family has left our home in Rochester, which has not sold after being on the market for a full year, and are currently renting a house in Middlebury. Paying a mortgage and paying rent for our ideal school. Working very hard to provide our children with the best education for them. Please give all families choice!	3/3/2015 5:33 PM
139	Expanding school choice is simply a tactic to get charter schools in Vermont. THAT's why there's a big push to consolidate school districts, take the hiring and firing of teachers away from local school boards, and expanding the definition of school choice to include charter schools. The Turkish Cultural Center of Vermont, which has ties to one of the largest charter school operators in the country, has paid for trips to Turkey for our state legislators the last two years in order to grease the wheels for this.	3/3/2015 3:11 PM
140	It would make the teachers more accountable!!!	3/3/2015 1:40 PM
141	Our daughter was socially and academically not being served well by our small k-12 school here in Cabot. After 3 yrs of trying to get her out under Regional School Coice lottery she was chosen and attended Danville HS her senior year...it was her best year in all way across the board! We wish we could have gotten her out sooner. Now wish we could get our 3 elemenary grade children out of Cabot School.	3/3/2015 12:14 PM
142	Worth a try, can't be worse than the present system.	3/3/2015 11:37 AM
143	While I support school choice, I believe public funds should stay with public schools.	3/3/2015 10:29 AM

## School Choice in Vermont

144	Parents should be in charge of educating their kids. Market pressures will make the present educational monopoly more responsive to customer needs.	3/3/2015 10:29 AM
145	Not only will costs go down by having a free market, they ability to be able to choose a school that "fits" a child's needs is the best reason to have choices. Whether it be athletic, science, arts or special needs oriented. I see no down side.	3/3/2015 9:04 AM
146	This is the best way to serve both the student and taxpayer.	3/3/2015 7:13 AM
147	All children should have the opportunity for a better education without costing the taxpayers more.	3/3/2015 7:03 AM
148	My grandchildren who live in Vt have or had school choice and I think they did better than their parents who did not have that choice.	3/3/2015 6:50 AM
149	we live in Sheldon and have school choice. my oldest daughter chose BFA St. Albans. she has loved it since day one. my youngest daughter went to BFA and was miserable and her grades were terrible. she asked to switch to Enosburg and we are glad she did she's happy and her grades have improved dramatically	3/3/2015 5:44 AM
150	I would love this for my kids.	3/2/2015 11:17 PM
151	I think Religious schools should be included!	3/2/2015 11:07 PM
152	Homeschooling should be included	3/2/2015 8:55 PM
153	should be open to any accredited school, religious or not	3/2/2015 8:40 PM
154	Choice = competition = better schools... It is just that simple	3/2/2015 7:46 PM
155	School Choice is an idea whose time has come.	3/2/2015 7:20 PM
156	Every child is different as every school is. You should be able to choose the best choice for your child. Poor schools will close good schools will do well!	3/2/2015 6:36 PM
157	All "public" (government) schools should be closed without exception. While my children had a choice of Bishop Marshall School or Morristown Elementary they could expect an education. When that choice ended and they were forced into Morristown schools their educations failed and problems increased exponentially.	3/2/2015 6:07 PM
158	parents should be able to have school choice and be able to pick what school fits their children's needs.	3/2/2015 5:32 PM
159	I went to Sheldon Elementary (school choice town) and chose to go to what is considered a 'bad' school in Vermont (MVU) as did my four other siblings. We all turned out fine and if not better than fine because of it. Our parents let us choose on our own and it was one of the first major decisions of our young lives. Maybe if children and parents could choose which school their children go to, they wouldn't need to relocate to go to 'better' schools. It would also in turn cause the schools to step it up a bit if they were considered failing by the standard of receiving less students. It may also help eliminate the issue we see with South Burlington's union picketing for more money when they don't do or provide any more than any other school in the state.	3/2/2015 5:13 PM
160	The wording of this survey is the furthest thing from neutral - it is what is known in the law as 'leading the witness.' I hope nobody gives it more credence than it deserves.	3/2/2015 4:33 PM
161	It's a sham to benefit children of the "haves" and weaken the public education system that the vast majority of Vermonters use.	3/2/2015 3:46 PM
162	St. J.A. and L.I. are victors in the social Darwinism game.	3/2/2015 3:12 PM
163	Common sense	3/2/2015 3:08 PM
164	Parents should be free to choose the school they want for their child .... When schools lose their monopoly, and have to compete for tuition, their costs will decline, and quality improve ...	3/2/2015 2:51 PM
165	I favor full transparency re: Ethan Allen Institute.	3/2/2015 2:46 PM
166	I believe that pseudo libertarian claptrap like this is exactly what is wrong with this country. I wish there were some way to avoid ever seeing or hearing your tripe. I am visiting this site with the express purpose of presenting that view.	3/2/2015 2:29 PM
167	Allowing our children to become educated in the environment that works best for the child can only enhance our society, therefore our culture as a whole benefits.	3/2/2015 2:11 PM
168	<a href="http://www.schoolandstate.org">www.schoolandstate.org</a>	3/2/2015 1:44 PM



## School Choice in Vermont

169	The schools that are already suffering will get worse as parents who don't care to drive their children to a different school will just keep them in the subpar school.	3/2/2015 1:27 PM
170	The principal of competition should create a more accountable system.	3/2/2015 1:25 PM
171	With the implementation of "Common Core" education has become indoctrination. By design, parents are excluded from the new and "foreign" learning process. Time to get our kids away from these socialist idealist before they are ruined for life !	3/2/2015 12:04 PM
172	I know a family that next year, they have three children that will be going to three different high schools especially since the oldest has special needs.	3/2/2015 12:04 PM
173	The education opportunities in each school should be the same. Then no need to send children elsewhere.	3/2/2015 11:47 AM
174	I will soon be leaving Vermont as I can no longer afford to live here.	3/2/2015 11:43 AM
175	It is imperative that all children have equal access to quality education that meets their needs.	3/2/2015 11:38 AM
176	I think religious schools should be included, simply for the cost savings! I feel this survey is a little unclear- it should be stated that transportation is up to the parent, and that there should be a tuition cap that reflects the local school tuition. We live in Sudbury and despite the entire town NOT wanting to merge with Whiting, and instead to go to Neshobe, the school board refuses to budge- its a nightmare.	3/2/2015 11:07 AM
177	School choice should include schools like Christ the King, where any religious affiliation is embraced, including no religious affiliation.	3/2/2015 11:05 AM
178	My son went from hating to go to school to loving it with another school. He is very bright and now has more course options to encourage his gift. This translates to a happier child at home.	3/2/2015 9:19 AM
179	All students are different, unique human beings. No choice in education or surroundings limits educational opportunities for those who do not have equal access to choice.	3/2/2015 9:18 AM
180	Massachusetts has 100 percent choice k-12 without ANY problems!!	3/2/2015 8:59 AM
181	School choice helped one of my children study in Sweden (her high school junior year), which was a life changing experience for her and cost the town about half of what the tuition to receiving schools was at that time. Win-win	3/2/2015 8:40 AM
182	I live in Elmore, but only moved to Vermont a few years ago, and am still trying to understand how the whole educational system works in this state. I attended an informational meeting on February 25th, where the speakers seemed to be pushing for consolidation of the Elmore and Morrisville school districts, supposedly for the purpose of reducing our property taxes. At the town meeting on Tuesday, we will be voting on whether to further research (with additional financial cost) the details and viability of such a consolidation. I don't think anyone disagrees that our taxes are already too high and increasing every year. However, more than a few people are concerned that a merger with Morrisville would, if not immediately, then within a few years, result in loss of the school choice which we currently enjoy, as well as loss of local control over how our children are educated, and even possibly the closing of the Elmore School. We really need an option other than either consolidation or doing nothing to keep the property taxes under control. Since this issue potentially involves school choice, I am hoping that someone at EAI can direct me to where I might find more information and talking points against this proposed consolidation. Someone suggested the possibility of changing our town school from a public school to an independent school, as a means of containing costs without giving up local control. I am not sure how that would affect school choice or the method by which education in Elmore is funded. Any information you can provide on this would be helpful. Thanks.	3/1/2015 3:24 PM
183	denying parents the right...and responsibility ...to send their child to the school that best fits their needs is a drastic infringement of their liberty!	3/1/2015 10:16 AM
184	School choice will improve outcome, reduce costs and keep control local. That's why the NEA is opposed. Unfortunately, their word is LAW.	2/28/2015 9:12 AM
185	It can lower property taxes	2/27/2015 11:12 PM