

What is the Education Opportunity Fund (EOF)?

The Education Opportunity Fund (EOF) is a state-run framework that modernizes and improves how education is delivered in Vermont.

At its core, EOF organizes education funding at the student level, using Vermont's existing education funding structure, and introduces a state-managed portal that brings clarity, access, and transparency to the system. It allows families to direct where their child's education funding is applied within a system of approved options, while ensuring that if a student is already enrolled and a family chooses to do nothing, nothing changes. Public schools, including existing community anchor schools, remain in place and continue to serve students as they do today.

For **families**, EOF provides visibility and access. Families can see approved educational settings, understand differences in approach and outcomes, and make informed decisions if they choose. The portal also provides a single place to apply for supports, such as transportation assistance, and to access services aligned to their child's needs. For students who remain where they are, there is no disruption. For those seeking a better fit, it creates a clear and supported pathway.

For **students with additional needs**, including special education, EOF brings coordination and clarity. Today, services are delivered across multiple systems that can be difficult to track. EOF brings those services into a single, state-managed structure where evaluated needs, supports, and associated funding layers are organized through the portal. This improves consistency, reduces fragmentation, and allows for clearer tracking of how services are delivered, while continuing to support providers and schools in serving students.

For the **Agency of Education**, EOF creates a unified system for oversight, reporting, and administration. Instead of fragmented processes, it provides a single place to manage approvals, monitor compliance, track services, and understand how the system is functioning.

For **school administrators and educators**, EOF simplifies enrollment and funding processes by aligning them more directly with students, while maintaining public accountability and expectations.

For **existing and new education providers**, EOF creates a clear and transparent pathway to participate in the system, with defined expectations and visibility.

For **legislators and policymakers**, EOF preserves full authority over funding decisions, weights, and guardrails, while significantly improving visibility into how the system is functioning. Instead of relying on delayed or fragmented reporting, lawmakers have access to more timely, consolidated information, allowing for more informed and responsive decision-making.

For **taxpayers**, EOF provides greater transparency, offering a clearer understanding of how education dollars move, where they are going, and what outcomes they are supporting.

In short, EOF does not change that education is public. It modernizes how the system operates behind the scenes, making it easier to understand, easier to navigate, and better able to serve students while preserving the public foundation.

Before going further, it may be helpful to clarify what EOF is not.

What the Education Opportunity Fund is not

EOF is not a voucher program.

It does not hand money directly to families, and it does not remove the state from the process. All funds remain controlled, tracked, and distributed by the state.

EOF is not a replacement for public schools.

Public schools remain the primary and default option for Vermont students, and existing schools and community anchors continue to operate as they do today.

EOF is not an escape hatch from the system or a traditional “school choice” model.

It does not allow public funds to be used without oversight. All participating educational settings are approved, and the use of funds and student outcomes remain visible within a public system.

Accountability is preserved and strengthened, not reduced.

EOF is not an attempt to dismantle the current system.

It works within Vermont’s existing structure and is designed to reduce pressure, improve transparency, and give lawmakers better visibility into how the system is functioning.

EOF is not a forced change.

Communities are not required to reorganize, and families are not required to move their children. If no action is taken, a student remains exactly where they are.

EOF does not remove the role of educators or weaken public responsibility.

It maintains public oversight, supports those delivering education, and strengthens the system around them by improving coordination, visibility, and access.

EOF is a practical tool designed to help Vermont respond to rising costs, uneven access, and growing pressure on the system, while keeping education public and improving how it works for everyone involved.