



The University of Vermont

July 20, 2011

John Fischer, Director, High School and Adult Division
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2501

Dear Mr. Fischer:

Please accept this letter as information in support of South Burlington High School's application for the Vermont Secondary Schools for the 21st Century grant application. In my role as director of admissions at the University of Vermont, I have been working with the staff at SBHS for the past 18 months on helping to advise them on the college admission process as they develop their Big Picture South Burlington program.

Big Picture South Burlington understood that it was critical for the success of their program to both educate admissions officers as well as to seek advice and direction in various stages of their development. Over the course of the past 18 months, I have met quarterly with staff to discuss progress and to provide input. As a group, we have discussed academic skills important to college readiness and success, effective ways of building a transcript, and how to ensure students have the academic content important for college preparation. I have observed student presentations and provided feedback to students as part of their learning.

We plan to continue to be involved in this important effort through regular contact as they further develop the program. In addition, we are willing to assist with any type of assessment that would be valuable in this effort. It is in the best interest of students to help support this kind of initiative that alternative ways for high school completion.

Best regards,

Beth A. Wisner, Ph.D.
Director of Admissions

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