



# Orange Southwest School District

24 Central Street Randolph Vermont 05060

Telephone (802) 728-5052

*Michael J. Clark, Superintendent*

*Robin Pembroke, Business Manager*

*Kayla Link, Director of Special Education*

*Mindybeth Pike,, Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement*

*Proudly Serving the Towns of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph*

Dear Orange Southwest School District Community,

As the Principal of Randolph Union Middle High School and the Orange Southwest Unified Union School District representative to the Winooski Valley Cooperative Educational Service Area (CESA), I want to take a moment to introduce our community to the concept of a CESA, explain how we came to this point, and share what participation in the Winooski Valley CESA means for our schools and our community.

## What is a CESA?

A Cooperative Educational Service Area, or CESA, is a regional partnership that allows school systems to work together to provide educational programs and services.

The idea is fairly straightforward: by working together, schools can share expertise, resources, programs, and services that may be difficult or inefficient for an individual school system to provide on its own. A CESA is designed to complement the educational programs of its member organizations and provide shared services in a cost-effective manner.

CESAs can provide or coordinate services in areas such as special education, professional development, curriculum development, business and administrative services, information technology, transportation, and other educational needs. They can also help expand opportunities for students, including opportunities in career and technical education.

Just as importantly, participation in a CESA does not mean that local schools lose their identity or that local school boards give up all decision-making authority. The CESA model is intended to promote regional cooperation while maintaining local leadership and decision-making.

## How Did CESAs Come About?

In 2026, Vermont created CESAs through Act 170, which established a statewide framework for Cooperative Educational Service Areas. The law defines a CESA as an association of supervisory unions created to deliver shared programs and services that complement the educational programs of its members. The law also establishes seven CESAs across Vermont, including the Winooski Valley CESA.



# Orange Southwest School District

24 Central Street Randolph Vermont 05060

Telephone (802) 728-5052

*Michael J. Clark, Superintendent*

*Robin Pembroke, Business Manager*

*Kayla Link, Director of Special Education*

*Mindybeth Pike,, Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement*

*Proudly Serving the Towns of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph*

The purpose of this regional structure is to encourage school systems to work together, make effective use of available resources, reduce duplication, expand educational opportunities, and help provide equitable access to educational services.

## Who Is Part of the Winooski Valley CESA?

The Winooski Valley CESA brings together 11 member supervisory unions, supervisory districts, and educational organizations. These members represent a broad geographic area and a diverse group of Vermont communities.

The members are:

- Barre Unified Union Supervisory District
- Central Vermont Career Center
- Central Vermont Supervisory Union
  - Echo Valley Community School District
  - Paine Mountain School District
- Harwood Unified Union Supervisory District
- Lamoille North Supervisory Union
  - Cambridge School District
  - Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District
- Lamoille South Supervisory Union
  - Elmore-Morristown Unified Union School District
  - Stowe School District
- Montpelier Roxbury Supervisory District
- Orange Southwest Unified Union School District
- Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union
  - Craftsbury School District
  - Hazen Union School District
  - Mountain View Union Elementary School District
  - Stannard Town School District
  - Wolcott School District
- Washington Central Unified Union Supervisory District
- White River Valley Supervisory Union
  - First Branch Unified School District



# Orange Southwest School District

24 Central Street Randolph Vermont 05060

Telephone (802) 728-5052

*Michael J. Clark, Superintendent*

*Robin Pembroke, Business Manager*

*Kayla Link, Director of Special Education*

*Mindybeth Pike,, Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement*

*Proudly Serving the Towns of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph*

- Granville-Hancock Unified District
- Rochester-Stockbridge Unified District
- Sharon School District
- Strafford School District
- White River Unified District

This means that Orange Southwest is part of a regional partnership that includes communities ranging from Barre and Montpelier to the Lamoille Valley, the Northeast Kingdom, and the Upper Valley.

## What Does This Mean for Orange Southwest?

For Orange Southwest, participation in the Winooski Valley CESA gives us an opportunity to have a voice in a regional conversation about how schools can work together.

There may also be opportunities to share expertise, professional development, technology, special education resources, career and technical education opportunities, and other services.

At the same time, it is important to understand that the CESA is not a new regional school district. Orange Southwest remains a locally governed school system. Our community continues to have local leadership and decision-making authority. The CESA provides a structure through which participating school systems can explore and implement opportunities for cooperation. As the Orange Southwest representative to the Winooski Valley CESA Board, I will participate in these conversations with the interests of our students, families, educators, and community in mind. I will also work to keep our community informed as the CESA develops its structure, bylaws, programs, and priorities.

## An Opportunity to Ask Questions

I recognize that changes in Vermont's education system can create questions and, understandably, some uncertainty. The CESA is a new structure for many of us, and there will be continued conversations about what regional collaboration should look like and what services make the most sense for our communities.



# Orange Southwest School District

24 Central Street Randolph Vermont 05060

Telephone (802) 728-5052

*Michael J. Clark, Superintendent*

*Robin Pembroke, Business Manager*

*Kayla Link, Director of Special Education*

*Mindybeth Pike,, Director of Curriculum and Student Achievement*

*Proudly Serving the Towns of Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph*

I believe it is important that we approach this work thoughtfully and transparently. Community questions and perspectives are an important part of this process.

If you have questions or concerns about the Winooski Valley CESA, or if you would simply like to learn more about what this means for Orange Southwest, please reach out to me. I welcome the opportunity to listen, answer questions when I can, and make sure that community perspectives are brought to the CESA table.

More Information about the Winooski Valley CESA can be found at:

<https://www.buusd.org/district/act-170-district-consolidation/winooski-valley-cooperative-educational-service-area-cesa-study>

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our students, our schools, and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Floyd", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa Floyd

Principal, Randolph Union Middle High School

Orange Southwest Unified Union School District Representative

Winooski Valley Cooperative Educational Service Area