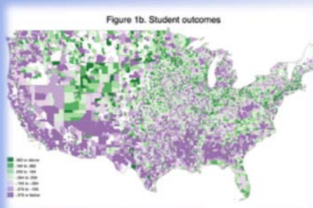
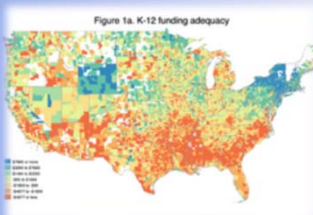


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Testimony to Vermont Legislature House Education Committee

Feb 6, 2026

Bruce D. Baker, University of Miami



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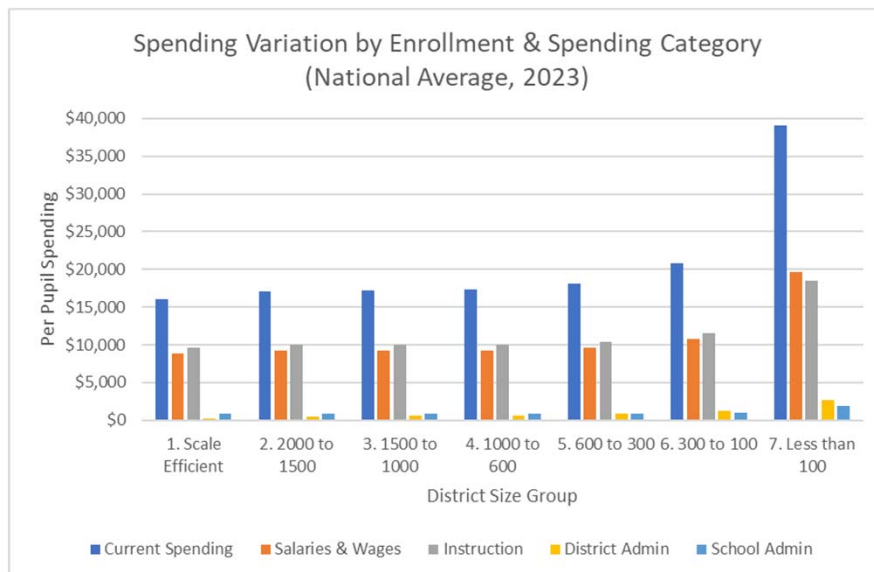
Major Points

- In Vermont, most of the “higher costs” are a function of very small school sizes (more so than, but related to district sizes)
- Wrapping new boundaries or governance structures around the same mix of schools will not cut costs significantly
 - “shared services” and combined central administrations will produce negligible cost savings (do little to reduce pressure on local property taxes)
- Long run costs can be reduced significantly by identifying specific schools/groups of schools to consolidate
 - But this will require up front capital investment (that may also be the incentive needed to make this happen)



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Data Source: School Finance Indicators Data System, District Panel

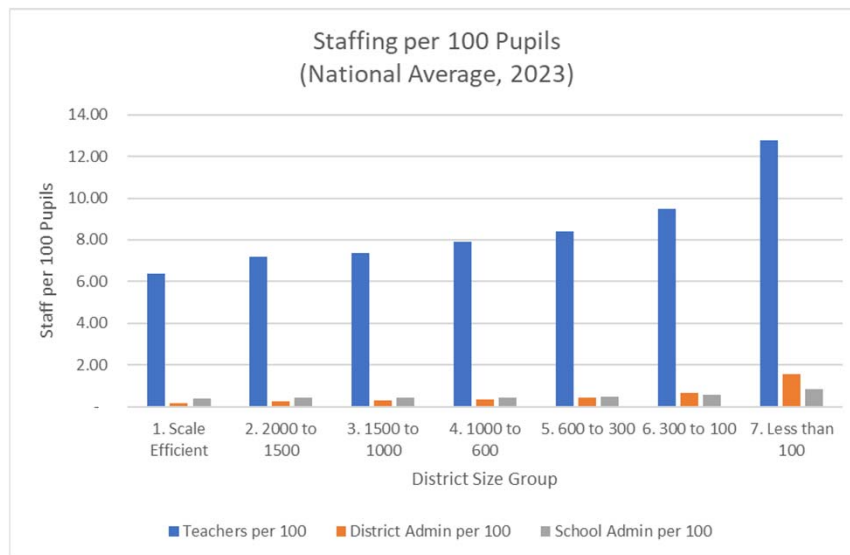
Underlying data from Census Fiscal Survey of Local Governments, School District Finances (F33)

And NCES Common Core of Data, Local Education Agency Universe Survey



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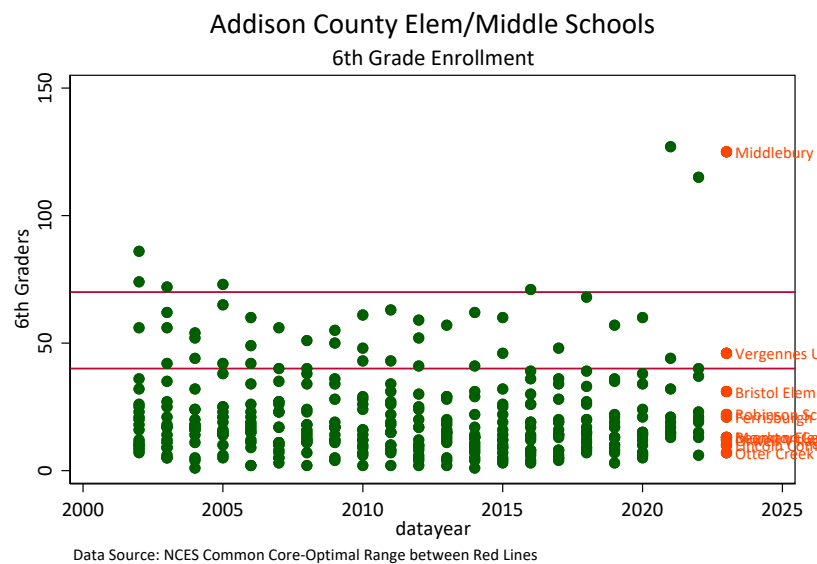
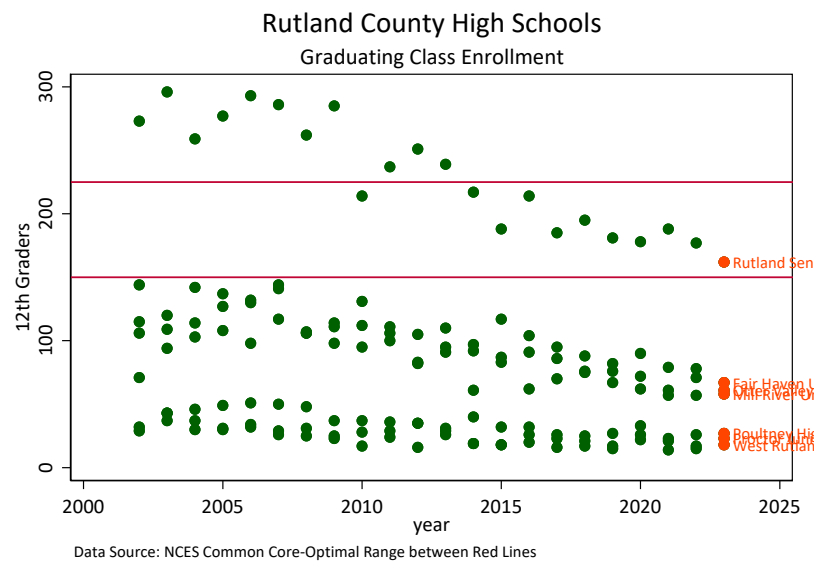


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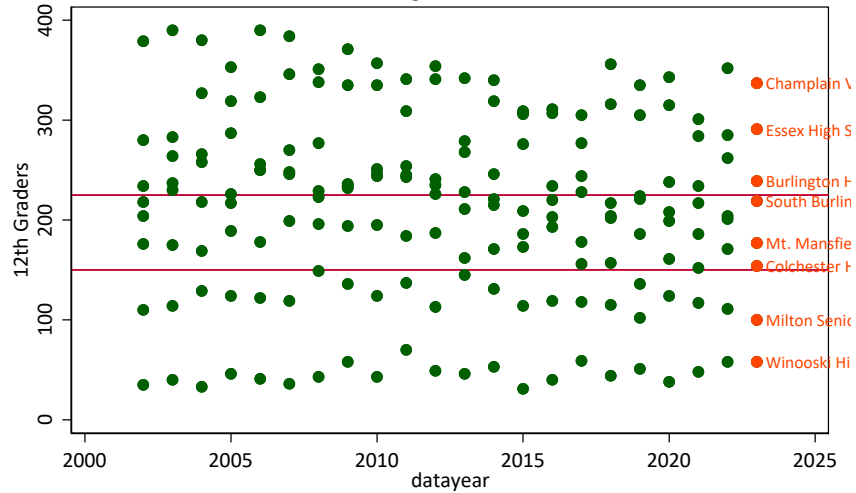
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Chittenden County High Schools

Graduating Class Enrollment



Data Source: NCES Common Core-Optimal Range between Red Lines



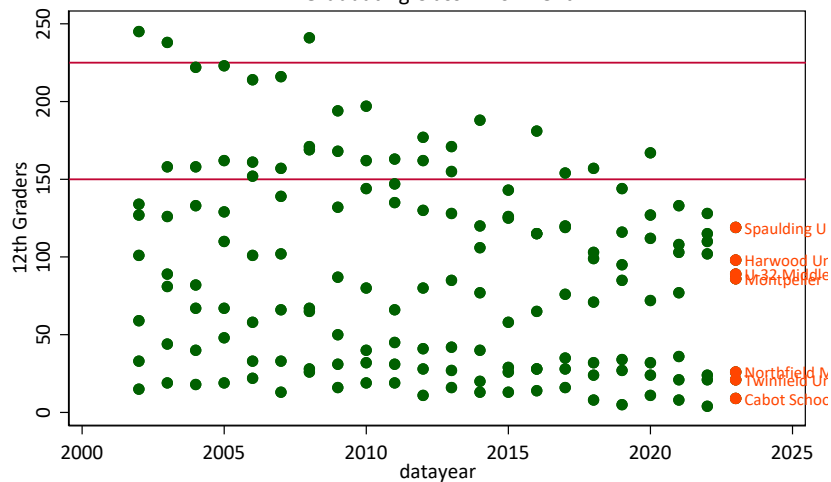
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Washington County High Schools

Graduating Class Enrollment



Data Source: NCES Common Core-Optimal Range between Red Lines

