## VSBIT

### Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust

# Annual Summary Report



For the Year Ending June 30, 2023

VSBIT serves Vermont schools by assisting members in the area of risk management to protect and conserve educational resources.

#### **VSBIT Board of Directors**

On behalf of the Board, administrators, and staff of the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT), I am pleased to present you with VSBIT's Annual Report for the year ended June 30, 2023.

VSBIT supports Vermont's public school systems by providing pooled coverages in the areas of workers' compensation, property, liability, and unemployment compensation. We are here when you need us, and we serve as your risk management partner by providing Vermont schools with programs and activities that have the goal of creating a healthy and safe climate for everyone while also reducing claims.

VSBIT is the primary "third party administrator" for the Vermont Educational Health Initiative (VEHI). VEHI offers health, dental, life and disability coverages to Vermont's educators, including VSTRS non-Medicare retirees.

In 2023, VSBIT carefully navigated the reinsurance marketplace to provide broad coverages and cutting edge training opportunities that reflect today's local and national challenges. Beyond coverages and training, VSBIT has partnered with the Vermont School Boards Association and the Vermont Superintendents Association to help foster engagement in managing risks before they become potential claims.

I would like to thank my fellow board members for their service to VSBIT. This year two of our long-term board members will be stepping down from their long time service on the VSBIT Board: Bob Giroux and Brenda Fleming. We are grateful for their dedication and will miss their wealth of experience which has helped guide VSBIT to help it be the organization it is today: a stable and sound program that puts its members first and is a leader both in Vermont and across the nation.

Please take a look at our Annual Report and review our financial stability along with the great work we are doing for Vermont's public schools. We are proud of our accomplishments, and I hope you are as well. Thank you.

Michael Clark, Chair VSBIT Board of Directors





#### President's Message 2023

VSBIT's Multi-Line and Unemployment programs remain member-focused and financially sound. You can read more about each of these programs and review VSBIT's financial statements in this Annual Report. Our annual financial audit is now being performed by Johnson and Lambert, one the nation's leading audit firms for pooled risk management programs like VSBIT. The FY 23 audit will be posted on our website as soon as it is available, typically by November of each year.

This year, our renewal process, which drives our budget and our availability of coverages, focused mostly on challenges in the property market. As I have often said, events in other places like wildfires and hurricanes affect the global pricing of insurance. Coupled with inflation and rising construction costs, our program was looking at large increases for its property coverage. Staff was able to negotiate lower rates than proposed; however, the July floods in Vermont will certainly raise the cost of property reinsurance next year. Fortunately, VSBIT is well capitalized and able to meet the current flood claims. The effect on future rates should be manageable.

Another global issue affecting Vermont is the tight labor market in schools and elsewhere. Internally, VSBIT underwent a pay and classification study. The staff of VSBIT is our single biggest asset and having the right people who understand the mission and are motivated to help keep Vermont's schools safe and manage risks and claims is of the utmost importance. I appreciate the dedication of our staff every day and I hope you do as well. We are here for you when you need us.

I also want to thank the VSBIT Board of Directors for their service to the organization. These 5 members volunteer their time and are always prepared for the work before them. They ask the right questions and oversee the finances and policies that guide the organization. They are supportive and bring unique perspectives to the table to help balance the risk management issues with the real world of schools.

VSBIT also supports all Vermont schools, regardless of participation in one of VSBIT's membership programs, through our School Management Resource Center (SMRC). This assistance includes VSBIT U, model policy and procedure development, facility operations, HR functions and more. The VSBIT website, <a href="www.vsbit.org">www.vsbit.org</a>, provides information and resources for Vermont schools.

VSBIT also manages the VEHI program. I encourage you to read the VEHI Annual Report at <a href="www.vehi.org">www.vehi.org</a> to learn about the work of our Wellness Team as well as VEHI's health, dental, and LTD/life programs.

As we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year of Multi-Line, we continue to focus on member service. If I, or any of our staff can be of service, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Jonathan Steiner

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS SINCE OUR FORMATION IN 1978**

1978-1979

Hubert Brooks, Pres. Harlan Adams, V. Pres. Alfred Hurley McDonald

Miller

John Gutman

1979-1980

Hubert Brooks, Pres. Harlan Adams, V. Pres. Alfred Hurley McDonald

Miller

John Gutman

1980-1981

McDonald Miller, Pres. Harlan Adams, V. Pres.

Alfred Hurley Leslie Seaver Arthur McCann

1981-1982

McDonald Miller, Pres. Harlan Adams, V. Pres.

Alfred Hurley Leslie Seaver Arthur McCann

1982-1983

McDonald Miller, Pres. Alfred Hurley, V. Pres.

Leslie Seaver Arthur McCann **David Thomas** 

1983-1984

McDonald Miller, Pres. Alfred Hurley, V. Pres.

Leslie Seaver **David Thomas** Ruth Sabol

<u>198</u>4-1985

McDonald Miller, Pres. Alfred Hurley, V. Pres.

**David Thomas** Ruth Sabol **Donald Carpenter** 

1985-1986

McDonald Miller, Pres. Alfred Hurley, V. Pres.

**David Thomas** Ruth Sabol

Charles Taylor

1986-1987

McDonald Miller, Pres.

David Thomas, V. Pres.

Ruth Sabol Ray Proulx Charles Taylor

1987-1988

David Thomas, Pres. Ray Proulx, V. Pres.

Ruth Sabol Charles Taylor Thomas O'Brien

1988-1989

David Thomas, Pres. Ray Proulx, V. Pres.

Ruth Sabol Charles Taylor Thomas O'Brien

1989-1990

David Thomas, Chair Ray Proulx, V. Chair

Ruth Sabol Charles Taylor Thomas O'Brien 1990-1991

David Thomas, Chair Rav Proulx, V. Chair

Ruth Sabol Charles Taylor Thomas O'Brien

1991-1992

David Thomas, Chair Ray Proulx, V. Chair Melisande Mayotte

**Brad Towne** 

Thomas O'Brien/Vacant

1992-1993

David Thomas, Chair

Melisande Mayotte, V. Chair

Ray Proulx Mary West Patrick Quigley

1993-1994

Melisande Mayotte, Chair

Ray Proulx, V. Chair

Mary West Martha Heath Orise Ainsworth

1994-1995

Melisande Mayotte, Chair

Ray Proulx, V. Chair

Mary West Martha Heath Orise Ainsworth

1995-1996

Melisande Mayotte, Chair

Ray Proulx, V. Chair

Mary West Martha Heath Steve Hier

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS SINCE OUR FORMATION IN 1978 (continued)**

1996-1997 David Thomas, Chair Ray Proulx, V. Chair Mary West Martha Heath Steve Hier	2002-2003 David Thomas, Chair Ray Proulx, V. Chair Martha Heath Chaunce Benedict Steve Bartlett	2008-2009 Steve Hier, Chair Laura Soares, V. Chair John Everitt Robert Giroux Steve Post
1997-1998 David Thomas, Chair Martha Heath, V. Chair Mary West Steve Hier Chaunce Benedict	2003-2004 Ray Proulx, Chair David Thomas, V. Chair Steve Bartlett Martha Heath Mary Sherrer	2009-2010 Laura Soares, Chair John Everitt, V. Chair Steve Hier Robert Giroux Steve Post
1998-1999 David Thomas, Chair Martha Heath, V. Chair Mary West Steve Hier Chaunce Benedict	2004-2005 Ray Proulx, Chair David Thomas, V. Chair Robert Giroux Laura Soares Mary Sherrer	2010-2011 Laura Soares, Chair Robert Giroux, V. Chair John Everitt Steve Hier Steve Post
1999-2000 David Thomas, Chair Martha Heath, V. Chair Mary West Steve Hier Chaunce Benedict	2005-2006 Dave Thomas, Chair Steve Hier, V. Chair Ray Proulx Laura Soares Mary Sherrer/John Everitt	2011-2012 Laura Soares, Chair Robert Giroux, V. Chair Steve Post Steve Hier Bob Rosane
2000-2001 David Thomas, Chair Martha Heath, V. Chair Mary West Steve Hier Chaunce Benedict	2006-2007 Steve Hier, Chair Laura Soares, V. Chair John Everitt Ray Proulx Dave Thomas	2012-2013 Robert Giroux, Chair Steve Post, V. Chair Ron Ryan Brenda Fleming Emily Long
2001-2002 David Thomas, Chair Martha Heath, V. Chair Mary West Steve Hier Chaynes Banedict	2007-2008 Steve Hier, Chair Laura Soares, V. Chair John Everitt Ray Proulx	2013-2014 Robert Giroux, Chair Brenda Fleming, V. Chair Steve Post Ron Ryan

Emily Long

Robert Giroux

Chaunce Benedict

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS SINCE OUR FORMATION IN 1978 (continued)

2014-2015

Robert Giroux, Chair Brenda Fleming, V. Chair

Ron Ryan Emily Long Stuart Weppler

2015-2016

Robert Giroux, Chair Brenda Fleming, V. Chair

Ron Ryan Emily Long Stuart Weppler

2016-2017

Robert Giroux, Chair Brenda Fleming, V. Chair Ron Ryan Emily Long

Stuart Weppler

2017-2018

Stuart Weppler, Chair Robert Giroux, V. Chair Brenda Fleming Emily Long

Emily Long Michael Clark

2018-2019

Stuart Weppler, Chair Robert Giroux, V. Chair Brenda Fleming Michael Clark

Steve Hier

2019-2020

Robert Giroux, Chair Steve Hier, V. Chair Brenda Fleming Michael Clark Mike Bailey 2020-2021

Michael Clark, Chair Robert Giroux, V. Chair

Brenda Fleming Steven Hier Mike Bailey

2022-2023

Michael Clark, Chair Robert Giroux, V. Chair

Brenda Fleming Steven Hier Scott Brown

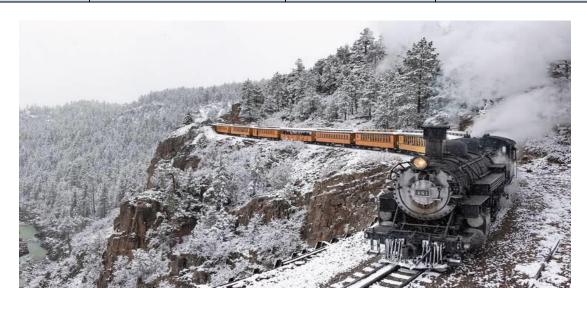
#### **Corporate Officers**

President: Jonathan Steiner Vice President: Michael Clark Secretary: Brenda Fleming



## VSBIT Staff

Jonathan Steiner	President/CEO	Ken Canning	Director of Multi-Line Program
Chris Roberts	Director of Finance	Bobby-Jo Salls	Director of VEHI Programs and Human Resources
Gillian Pieper	PATH Program Manager	Amy Gilbert	Wellness Program Coordinator
<b>Ashley Johnson</b>	Wellness Program Coordinator	Jessica Valler	VEHI Program Assistant
Angela Tremblay	Program Coordinator / Accounting Clerk	Larae Cirignano	Director of Technology
Michelle Broderick	Office Manager	Montell Kirkland	Information Technology Assistant
Patty Greene	Workers Compensation Claims Manager	Joellen Demers	Workers Compensation Claims Manager
Lisa Locke	Sr. Workers Compensation Claims Adjuster	Douglas O'Donnell	Property & Casualty Claims Manager
Leah McGinley	Workers Compensation Claims Adjuster	Melinda Compo	Claims Assistant
April Buswell	Claims Assistant	David Pickel	Manager of Risk Services
Ben Prevost	Risk Management Consultant	Heidi Joyce	Risk Management Consultant
<b>Lorie Whittemore</b>	Multi-Line Customer Service Manager		





The School Management Resource Center (SMRC) was established in 1998 to further VSBIT's non-profit mission to support all Vermont schools regardless of membership in the VSBIT Multi-Line or Unemployment Insurance Programs. We continue to explore areas where our risk management expertise and assistance can make a meaningful difference in all Pre-K-12+ schools.

Some of the ways the SMRC supports Vermont schools include:

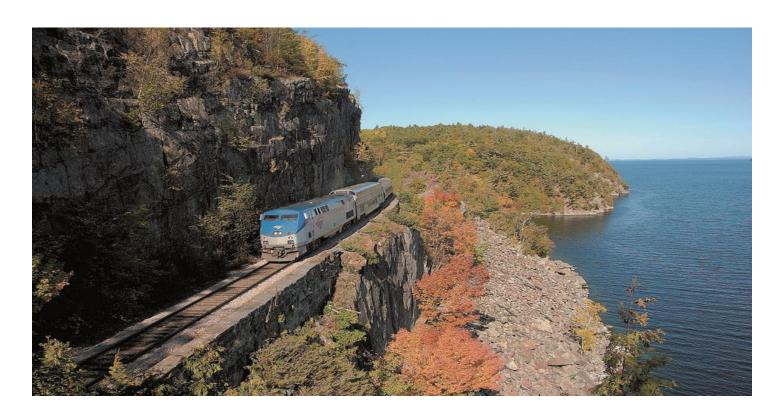
- Financial support to VSBA via a Service Agreement that addresses the following areas:
  - o The VSBA monitors legislative activity and keeps VSBIT apprised of issues in which we have an interest. Together, our organizations responded to legislative proposals where our interests align.
  - VSBIT works together with VSBA to ensure model policies reflect risk management principles, and VSBIT has developed companion model procedures. SMRC funds are used to secure legal assistance and review of the policies and procedures.
  - VSBA incorporates risk management topics in its professional development and resources for school boards.
  - VSBIT continues to meet weekly with VSBA and VSA to foster cooperation. VSBA provides quarterly
    reports to VSBIT on all activities under the Agreement, and the Agreement is monitored throughout the
    year and adjusted if necessary.
- Financial support to VSA, VPA, VASBO, VCSEA and other education related associations on an as needed basis.
- Fund work performed by legal counsel to develop the following model procedures to accompany model policies that require superintendents to develop a companion procedure. The first release included the following model procedures:
  - o Education Records
  - Volunteers and Work Students
  - Participation of Home Study Students
  - Student Attendance
  - o Pupil Privacy Rights
  - o Responsible Computer, Network, and Internet Use
- Fund legal resources to review ACT 173 rule making and its impact on Special Education.
- Developed risk management toolkits to help reduce the risk of liability losses in the area of school board legal and employment practices including:
  - A Title IX toolkit was developed by legal counsel that provides schools guidance in how to implement grievance procedures that were put into effect by the federal government. The toolkit provides a model policy, general process forms, and tools for each of the four roles in the process.
  - The HHB toolkit includes resources and tools for the investigator, designated employee, building administrator as well as a module specific to school staff/employees.

#### **VSBIT - U**

- Provided twelve (12) training sessions in FY23, all of which were held remotely. There were four (6) on Title IX and six (6) on Hazing, Harassment and Bullying (HHB). The trainings were conducted by Heather Lynn of Lynn, Lynn, Blackman & Minitsky (LLBM).
  - The Title IX sessions were attended by more than four hundred and fifty (450) people in total. The sessions provided training for the New Title IX Regulations for schools, including defining sexual harassment, intake & assessment, the grievance process and post grievance process.
  - The HHB sessions were attended by more almost seven hundred (700) people, and the content was an in-depth treatment of policy definitions, the process for responding to information of potential HHB violations, and investigations to determine policy violations.
- Hosted a monthly HHB Brown Bag Lunch series of Q&A sessions with attorney Heather Lynn where members can ask HHB and Title IX related questions.

VISBIT-U is a valuable resource and is heavily relied upon by both members and non-members alike for annual HHB and Title IX training. In FY24 we will consider additional topics to cover as well as these perennial favorites.

VSBIT is happy to be able to serve the broader school community with the above-mentioned trainings and support via the School Management Resource Center (SMRC).

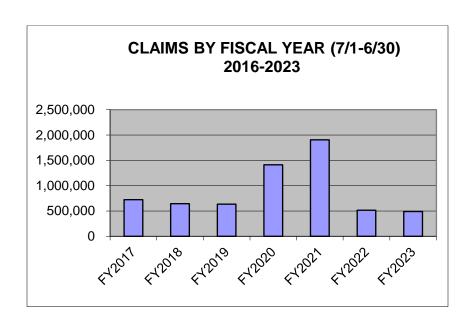


#### **Unemployment Program Summary**

The VSBIT Unemployment Program began as the initial program of the Trust in 1978 with 61 districts participating and has since grown to 107 members in 2022-2023. VSBIT member districts are considered reimbursable employers to the state, responsible for paying the cost of actual claims each quarter. VSBIT makes these payments on members' behalf, using member contribution dollars. This allows VSBIT member districts to have the advantages of both paying actual claims costs and a predictable contribution rate. VSBIT engages a TPA, Equifax, to support employers in verifying claims and protesting claims when appropriate.

For FY23 overall the claim volume continued to trend down with 364 claims processed. The actual dollars paid decreased to just over \$490,00 compared to just over \$509,000 in FY22 and just over \$1,900,000 in FY21. Of the 364 claims filed 42% were protested. Of these protested claims, 93% received favorable decisions for the school districts resulting in a total of \$234,055 being removed from potential claims liability.

FY23 Rates range from .06-1.17% plus a high-risk adjustment factor for those districts that had paid claims in excess of \$1,000 above their contribution over a three-year period. VSBIT rates continue to compare favorably to the State rates, which range from 0.8% - 6.5%. VSBIT continues to apply its rates to the first \$8,000 in wages per employee while the State now taxes the first \$13,500.





The VSBIT Multi-Line Program provides comprehensive coverage, robust risk management programs and services and additional support to over 90% of Vermont Pre-K-12+ public schools.

#### **VSBIT** provides Multiple-Lines of coverage to Members including:

Workers Compensation Property

General Liability Flood and Earthquake Sexual Abuse Liability Equipment Breakdown

Volunteer Workers Medical Payments Builders Risk School Nurse/Counselor Professional Cyber Liability

School Statutory Liability Violent Events and Crisis Situations

Work Based Learning Med Pay Environmental Liability

School Board Legal Liability Automobile Liability and Physical Damage

Employment Practices Liability Special Events Liability IEP and Due Process Legal Expense Catastrophic Student Accident

Non-Monetary Relief Legal Expense Crime, Employee Theft and Faithful Performance

In Fiscal year 2023 Multi-Line program staff continued to provide best in class customer service to the membership. Highlights of member benefits and services provided in FY23 include:

- Added one new member to the program effective 7/1/2022 Milton Town School District. Also, Central Vermont Career Center School District spun off from Barre Unified Union School District and became a stand-alone Multi-Line member.
- Reviewed and approved 86 grant requests from Members totaling over \$311,815. The grants were used to
  address Cybersecurity, HR, Training, Legal, Safety, Building Security issues as well as Playground and
  Ergonomics risk factors identified by onsite inspections conducted by Multi-Line Risk Management
  Consultants.
- Answered 154 HR Help Button questions and provided members with complementary legal advice from private practice attorneys. Responded to 25 Ask the Staff and 74 Contact VSBIT submissions; and facilitated more than two dozen contract review requests.
- Partnered with Vector Solutions, formerly Safe Schools, to provide online training for each member. This training has been created to assist with meeting mandates, improving workplace safety, increasing flexibility for Professional Development, and reducing claims.
- Partnered with Shoes for Crews, initiating a slip resistant footwear program. Having a slip-resistant footwear program is necessary for all schools in Vermont! Slips, trips, and falls continue to be the leading cause of Workers Compensation Claims in the Multi-Line Program.

- Received the following volume of new claims (not including report-only incidents):
  - WC: 615
    GL: 33
    E&O: 20
    IEP/DP: 34
    Property: 62
    Auto: 65
- Continued partnership with RPA and Gates Consulting to offer members an affordable package of services
  including cyber risk assessment, quarterly vulnerability scans, policy and response templates, consultation
  with a virtual chief information security officer, and an optional add-on for security phishing and awareness
  training.
- Provided the membership with various Risk Management services including:
  - o Sponsored and presented 2 training courses at the Vermont School Custodian and Maintenance Association (VSCMA).
  - o Provided free OSHA 10 training and cards to 29 school maintenance and custodial staff.
  - o Conducted over 73 Playground Safety Inspections (PSI's) and 60 Building Safety Inspections (BSI's).
  - o Conducted monthly Risk Management webinars.
  - Updated the Transportation Tool Kit
  - o Installed a Cyber Help Button on our web page for IT Technical Assistance & Inquiries
  - o Sponsored and participated in the Governor's School Safety Conference
  - o Sponsored and participated in the Vermont Principal Leadership Academy
  - Facilitated an IFMA (International Facility Management Association) and FEA (Facility Engineering Associates), "Essentials of Facility Management" training program with 29 participants, at our Annual Spring Conference.

The VSBIT Multi-Line Program is a great example of successful cooperation among Vermont public schools banding together for their mutual benefit. VSBIT is an intermunicipal insurance association authorized in statute by the Vermont Legislature and overseen by the Department of Financial Regulation. As a non-profit memberowned and governed self-insured risk pool we collectively continue to prove that there is strength in unity. With broad-based coverage designed specifically for Vermont schools, professional claims management, and proactive risk management solutions VSBIT is here to work for you, and only you, our members - Vermont Pre-K-12+ public schools.



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#### VERMONT SCHOOL BOARDS INSURANCE TRUST, INC.

#### COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION (UNAUDITED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

		loyment rance	Worker's Compensati (1992-1998	on	M	ulti-Line		General Reserve		Unemployment Reserve	1	Multi-Line Reserve		General Operating	Total
Revenue:															 
Program Contributions	\$ 1,	185,263	\$	0	\$	15,641,427	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$ 16,826,690
Other Income		100	5,	,000		6,174		32,890		0		0		14,850	59,014
Investment Income - Interest and Dividends		7,719		0		692,819		874,261		109,059		110,111		5,568	1,799,537
Investment Income/(Loss) - Other		0		0		507,626		2,076,565		233,492		(116,778)		0	2,700,905
							_	, ,	_						, <u>,</u>
Total Revenue	1,	193,082	5	,000		16,848,046		2,983,716	_	342,551		(6,667)		20,418	 21,386,146
Expenses:															
Net Change in Claims Paid and Reserved		490,175		0		7,978,097		0		0		0		0	8,468,272
Reinsurance Premiums		0		0		4,180,743		0		0		0		0	4,180,743
Administration Fees to Outside Administrator		35,650		0		132,681		0		0		0		0	168,331
Other Program Expenses		1,845		0		1,173,355		25,077		0		0		0	1,200,277
General and Administrative Expenses		84,940		0		1,816,040		330,881		0		0		14,850	2,246,711
School Management Resource Center Expenses		0		0		0		352,306	_	0		0		0	 352,306
Total Expenses		612,610		0		15,280,916	- <u>-</u>	708,264	_	0		0	_	14,850	 16,616,640
Net Income/(Loss)		580,472	5,	,000		1,567,129		2,275,452		342,551		(6,667)		5,568	4,769,506
Distributions to Members		0	(5,0	000)		0		0	_	0		0		0	 (5,000)
Net Income/(Loss) After Distributions		580,472		0		1,567,129		2,275,452	_	342,551		(6,667)		5,568	 4,764,505
Transfers:															
Transfers In/(Out)		0		0		0		193,437	_	0		(110,111)		(83,324)	 0
Total Transfers		0		0		0	_	193,437	_	0_		(110,111)		(83,324)	 0
Change in Net Position		580,472		0		1,567,129		2,468,889		342,551		(116,778)		(77,756)	4,764,505
Net Position – Beginning of Year		129,293		0		19,730,492		27,904,087	_	3,410,778		3,917,012		3,083,763	 58,175,425
Net Position – End of Year	\$	709,764	\$	0		21,297,621		30,372,976	=	3,753,328		3,800,234	· —	3,006,007	\$ <u>62,939,930</u>

#### VERMONT SCHOOL BOARDS INSURANCE TRUST, INC.

#### COMBINING STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (UNAUDITED)

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Unemployment	Worker's Compensation		General	Unemployment	Multi-Line	General	
	Insurance	(1992-1998)	Multi-Line	Reserve	Reserve	Reserve	Operating	Total
Assets:								
Cash	\$ 766,224		- / / -			7	\$ 215,924	
Investments	0	0		30,162,486	3,753,328	3,800,234	0	62,819,499
Contribution Receivable Other Receivables	36,183 13,749	0	150,070	35	0	0	0 142	186,916 596,577
Prepaid Expenses	13,749	0	,	0	0	0	30,579	194,685
Property, Plant and Equipment-Net of \$979,300 Accumulated	Ü	0	104,107	Ü	Ü	U	30,379	174,083
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,006,007	3,006,007
Total Assets	816,156	0	34,932,215	30,375,596	3,753,328	3,800,234	3,252,652	76,930,181
Liabilities:								
Accounts Payable	0	0	,	2,620	0	0	6,360	70,991
Accrued Payroll and Payroll Taxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	193,140	193,140
Claims Payable Claims to be Paid	106,392	0	0	0	0	0	0	106,392
Anticipated Claims not Reported	0	0	7,811,955 3,973,000	0	0	0	0	7,811,955 3,973,000
Other Liabilities Reserve for Unallocated Loss	0	0		0	0	0	47,145	204,772
Adjustment Expenses	0	0	1,630,000	0	0	0	0	1,630,000
Total Liabilities	106,392	0	13,634,594	2,620	0	0	246,645	13,990,250
Net Position	709,764	0	21,297,621	30,372,976	3,753,328	3,800,234	3,006,007	62,939,931
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION	816,156	0	34,932,215	30,375,596	3,753,328	3,800,234	3,252,652	76,930,181

#### **Our Mission**

VSBIT serves Vermont schools by assisting members in the area of risk management to protect and conserve educational resources.

#### **Our Vision**

Driven by a commitment to respond to the needs of Vermont schools, and guided by our values, we shall offer cost effective and innovative risk management services to member organizations in areas where our presence in the marketplace can make a meaningful difference.

#### Our Values

In conducting ourselves individually and collectively, we will be:

- Trustworthy
- Caring and Respectful
- Innovative and Collaborative
- Fiscally Responsible



Visit us online at:

www.vsbit.org