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SPORTS, 1B

# Burlington Free Press

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## Education Dept. receives more funds



President Donald Trump and Secretary of Education Linda McMahon have been working to dismantle the Department of Education. CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS FILE

### Despite Trump's goal to eliminate it, agency part of recent spending bill

Zachary Schermelé

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Over the past year, congressional Republicans have cheered on President Donald Trump's quest to dismantle the Education Department.

Yet those same lawmakers just reached a deal with Democrats to give what's left of the agency more money — not less — compared to last year.

Congress' annual appropriations bills, which Trump signed into law Feb. 3, fully retained spending for many of the department's programs, funding things like special education and after-school activities. Even programs the Trump administration has unilaterally cut or ignored, prompting lawsuits, were supported at roughly their usual levels.

A mixed-bag victory for Democrats, the bipartisan dealmaking represented a quiet rebuke from GOP lawmakers of Trump's stated crusade to curb the federal role in education policy. And the end result — which set aside roughly \$80 billion to the Education Department for fiscal year 2026 — underlined the political limitations of one of the White House's most nebulous goals.

It also highlighted the logistical difficulty of trying to fully do away with an agency whose entrenched functions are relied upon, though in limited ways, by states, schools and students across the country. The Education Department implements widely popular programs that, among other things, protect students with disabilities, help schools hire counselors and make college more affordable.

For the last half-century, elements of

the GOP in Washington have been trying to do away with the agency, a creation of the Jimmy Carter era. Doing so, however, would require an act of Congress and support from at least some Democrats.

"My key takeaway is that Congress rejected virtually everything that the president requested," said Sarah Abernathy, the executive director of the nonprofit Committee for Education Funding.

Amid Trump's yearlong attempt to dismantle the Education Department, she said, "Republicans in Congress have taken a hands-off approach — until this bill."

While the legislation wasn't precisely what Democrats wanted, it routed money to the most important

See FUNDS, Page 2A

## Book will feature Vermont history, lore

Beth McDermott

AI-assisted reporter  
Burlington Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A book is coming out highlighting the work of Vermont historians and collectors of artifacts, according to a community announcement from the Vermont Historical Society, its publisher.

The book, "Green Mountain Quartet: Essays on Antiquarian Vermontiana," is edited by J. Kevin Graffagnino, according to the announcement.

It explores the intertwined careers and writings of four antiquarians specializing in Vermont: Harold Goddard Rugg, T. D. Seymour "Tom" Bassett, Marcus A. McCorison and Graffagnino himself.

Rugg was a librarian at Dartmouth College for half a century and collected and wrote about Vermont history throughout his adult life. He bequeathed 11,000 books and pamphlets, 3,600 broadsides and more than 2,000 museum artifacts to the Vermont Historical Society.

Bassett was the leading Vermont historian of his generation and long-time curator of the University of Vermont's collection on the state.

McCorison was the head of the American Antiquarian Society for 30 years and authored "Vermont Imprints 1778-1820," which became a vital resource for students and collectors of early Vermont printing.

Graffagnino worked at UVM, was the executive director of the Vermont Historical Society and is the author of numerous books and articles on Vermontiana.

The upcoming book features a selection of the quartet's writings on Vermont lore, with an introductory essay on their lives and careers. It is filled with illustrations principally from the holdings of the Vermont Historical Society and UVM's Silver Special Collections Library.

The hardcover edition will retail for \$45 and will be a limited run of 500 signed and numbered copies. It will be available to purchase in early February 2026.

Graffagnino began his career at the UVM library, where he served as curator of Vermont history from 1978 to

See BOOK, Page 2A

## History lesson: How did Vermont get its name?

Catherine Messier

USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

Have you ever wondered how the state of Vermont got its name?

The state is one of many from the original 13 colonies to be named by European explorers, as Europeans scouted the land in the early 1600s. In fact, French explorers traveled through the region as early as 1609, attributing French names to different parts of the

land.

But what exactly does "Vermont" mean in French? Here's the history and significance of the name Vermont.

### How did Vermont get its name?

According to Realtor.com, French explorer Samuel de Champlain named the state Verd Mont, which means "green

See VERMONT, Page 2A



Vermont state of United States flag. OLEKSII LISKONIH, GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

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