

# Summary of Advance Vermont's *Report on Activities Conducted by Advance Vermont*

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## - Introduction

- Advance Vermont: A statewide partnership of various interest groups and stakeholders with the shared goal of increasing educational attainment in Vermont. More information can be found on their [website](#).
- Several major problems Vermont must overcome:
  - Between 2020 and 2030 there will be approximately 82,000 openings for Vermont's "most promising jobs."<sup>1</sup> These jobs overwhelmingly will require some sort of post secondary training or credential.
  - A 2019 legislative goal was to have "70 percent of working age Vermonters" holding "a credential of value by the year 2025." As of 2021, this figure sits at 59%.
  - As of 2022, only 48% of Vermont students enrolled in college following their senior year.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, ten years ago, 74 percent of young adults nationally said college was "very important." As of 2023, that number is only 41%.<sup>3</sup>

## - Awareness:

- Advance Vermont is required by Act 183 to help increase awareness of Vermont's educational attainment goal, specifically through the use of "web based resources"
  - MyFutureVT: A free online career and educational resource created and maintained by Advance Vermont.
    - In 2023, the site saw ~73,000 users, an 82% jump from 2022.
    - The site is available in the top 8 spoken languages in Vermont
    - A comprehensive review of the site is in the works with plans to be completed and shared sometime in early 2024.

## - Outreach:

- Two primary methods of outreach:
  1. Regular contact with relevant business, educational, governmental, and community organizations. Specific methods include:

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<sup>1</sup> Advance Vermont gives several examples of "most promising jobs," such as nurses, teachers, accounting, and construction.

<sup>2</sup> According to the Vermont Agency of Education.

<sup>3</sup> According to a 2023 study by the New York Times.

- An email newsletter to update partner organizations and the community at large on educational attainment programs and goals.
  - Incorporation into the work of direct service providers, such as VDOL, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, school counselors, etc.
2. Training and exhibitions at career-oriented events across the state. Events have been organized for the Vermont School Counselors Association Conference, Vermont Department of Labor staff, students and families at Champlain Valley Union High School and surrounding schools, etc.
- **Collaboration:**
    - Advance Vermont has cooperated with several organizations in developing and supporting their own career development programs. Examples include partnering with Vermont Afterschool to assist in the development of its career focused afterschool and summer curriculum, cooperation with Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund to increase awareness of sustainable forestry and food-system careers, etc.
  - **Data**
    - Advance Vermont operates two data collection and organization platforms:
      - [Data Dashboard](#): An online resource designed to keep track of various educational attainment indicators across the state.<sup>4</sup>
      - [Vermont Credential Transparency Project](#): catalogs all postsecondary credentials across the state. This assists both employers and workers in the hiring/job search process. Currently, Advance Vermont has 431 credentials published on the website. This list is not comprehensive, however, and Advance Vermont plans to add an additional 400 credentials by early 2024.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The Data Dashboard specifically tracks 26 indicators, including but not limited to: rates of educational attainment by race, gender, age, etc.

<sup>5</sup> Credentials are drawn from “all public institutions, two-thirds of the state’s private colleges, and nearly all of the state’s CTE centers.”