

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: Education; Vermont State Colleges; strategic goals

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish
5 strategic goals and reporting requirements for the Vermont State Colleges.

6 An act relating to establishing strategic goals and reporting requirements for
7 the Vermont State Colleges

8 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

9 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2171a is added to read:

10 § 2171a. STRATEGIC GOALS

11 (a) The Corporation shall establish its priorities, budget and allocate its
12 resources, and develop its capabilities to ensure that students successfully
13 achieve their academic goals in a manner and in an environment that is:

14 (1) affordable;

15 (2) accessible;

16 (3) equitable; and

17 (4) relevant to Vermont's needs.

18 (b) As used in this chapter:

1 (1) “Accessible” means each student, regardless of where the student’s
2 home campus is located, has increased access to academic opportunities,
3 majors, and courses across the Corporation’s academic system.

4 (2) “Affordable” means a level of financial commitment that enables a
5 student to access the education the student needs to achieve the student’s
6 career and education goals.

7 (3) “Equitable” means the extent to which gaps in educational access
8 and success are being reduced for students from economically deprived
9 backgrounds, first-generation students, students of color, and other
10 marginalized groups.

11 (4) “Relevant to Vermont’s needs” means that students graduate as
12 informed and engaged citizens who are prepared for the world of work and for
13 participating in a democratic society.

14 (5) “Total cost of attendance” has the meaning provided in 20 U.S.C.
15 § 1087ll, as amended.

16 (6) “Unmet need” means the total cost of attendance minus:

17 (A) the Student Aid Index, as determined under 20 U.S.C.

18 § 1087mm, as in effect on July 31, 2023; and

19 (B) all nonloan student financial assistance.

20 (7) “VSAC” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

1 (c) The Corporation’s Board of Trustees shall approve and maintain
2 institutional missions that align to the strategic goals set out in subsection (a)
3 of this section.

4 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2171b is added to read:

5 § 2171b. VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION AND
6 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; REPORTING

7 On or before January 15, 2024 and on or before January 15 annually
8 thereafter, VSAC, with the assistance of and in collaboration with the
9 Corporation, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees
10 on Education containing:

11 (1) the average and median amount of unmet need for full-time students
12 enrolled with the Corporation for the first time and the average and median
13 amount of unmet need for all other students;

14 (2) the average, median, annual, and cumulative student and parent debt
15 by loan type, federal direct to student, federal direct to parent, state, or private,
16 for students obtaining a two-year or four-year degree; and

17 (3) for students enrolled with the Corporation, their average:

18 (A) yearly continuation rate;

19 (B) academic progress, showing satisfactory and unsatisfactory
20 progress; and

21 (C) graduation rate.

1 Sec. 3. REPORT

2 On or before July 1, 2025, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, in
3 collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall submit a written report to the
4 House and Senate Committees on Education on whether and how to implement
5 a requirement that all high school students complete the Free Application for
6 Federal Student Aid as a condition of graduation.

7 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 2171(c) is amended to read:

8 (c) The Corporation may acquire, hold, and dispose of property in fee or in
9 trust, or any other estate, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section;
10 shall have a common seal; and shall be an instrumentality of the State for the
11 purposes set forth in this section. The State of Vermont shall support and
12 maintain the Corporation. The sale, lease, demolition, or disposal of property
13 by the Corporation shall comply with the applicable requirements of 32 V.S.A.
14 § 962.

15 Sec. 5. REPEAL

16 16 V.S.A. § 2188 is repealed.

17 Sec. 6. EFFECTIVE DATES

18 Secs. 1 and 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2024, and Secs. 3, 4, and 5 and this
19 section shall take effect on passage.