

1 Sec. E.504. ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY HSCP
2 STUDENT ACCESS STUDY; REPORT

3 (a) The High School Completion Program (HSCP) is experiencing
4 decreased enrollment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, policy changes within the
5 program, and lower literacy skills that limit acceptance into the program.
6 Adult basic education programs overall are experiencing funding reductions
7 due to decreased enrollment.

8 (b) There is created the Adult Education and Literacy HSCP Student
9 Access Study Committee to review and report on decreased HSCP enrollment
10 and subsequent adult basic education funding issues. The Committee shall
11 make recommendations to the Joint Fiscal Committee, the General Assembly,
12 and the Agency of Administration on or before January 15, 2024, to increase
13 enrollment in HSCP.

14 (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following
15 members:

16 (1) a current member of the House, who shall be appointed by the
17 Speaker of the House;

18 (2) a current member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the
19 Committee on Committees;

20 (3) the Secretary of Education or designee;

21 (4) the Executive Director of Racial Equity or designee; and

1 (5) the Executive Director of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education or
2 designee.

3 (c) Powers and duties. The Committee shall review and make
4 recommendations to reduce barriers for vulnerable Vermonters, including
5 English learner applicants to Adult Education Programs, including any
6 discrepancies between admission and testing standards for English learner
7 applicants and all other applicants. The Committee shall provide
8 recommendations in its report to the Joint Fiscal Committee and the House and
9 Senate Committees on Education on how to increase equity and education
10 access to Adult Education Programs. The Committee shall include in its report
11 any administrative changes that could be made to help achieve these goals.

12 (d) Assistance. The Committee shall have the administrative, technical,
13 and legal assistance of the Agency of Education.

14 (e) The Committee shall submit a written report to the Joint Fiscal
15 Committee, the General Assembly, and the Agency of Administration on or
16 before January 15, 2024 with its findings and any recommendations for
17 legislative action based on the analysis conducted pursuant to subsection (c) of
18 this section. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Committee report
19 be used to inform fiscal year 2025 budget considerations and that the
20 recommendations of the Committee be implemented to increase HSCP
21 enrollment.

- 1 (f) The Secretary of Education or the Secretary's designee shall call the
- 2 first meeting of the Committee. The Committee shall hold not more than five
- 3 meetings, the first of which shall be on or before September 15, 2023.