

Budget reduction impact on CHSVT field sites (AKA street sites)

From: dlucearch@aol.com

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To: twood@leg.state.vt.us

Subject: Budget reduction impact on CHSVT field sites (AKA street sites)

Hi Theresa,

Thanks for your time during the Waterbury Municipal Complex open house event to talk with me about my concerns regarding the closure of the CHSVT field sites.

I want to re-emphasize how detrimental the closure of these so-called "street sites" will be to CHSVT. It will reduce the statewide campus of CHSVT to half its current size, which alone reduces access to those who want to complete their credit work and get a diploma or industry certification. Further, the street sites are the only place where a student can finish the work begun while they were incarcerated but were unable to complete (some face a very significant credit load) before they were released from prison. These sites, which are co-located with Probation and Parole, are not only convenient for the prior offender, but provide a classroom and an instructor to guide them and insure that our proficiency-based system is adhered to and the work done is sufficient for credit. Unlike the normal high school graduation criteria of, in many cases, simply putting in the time, proficiency-based means the student must maintain a portfolio of completed work and produce a final presentation to faculty and peers reflecting on their academic/vocational accomplishments.

In summary, without availability of the street sites, some of our students will not be able to finish school and that possibility will certainly discourage them from trying to get ahead and will cause them to think twice about taking on a heavy, but necessary credit load if they cannot be guaranteed to finish by the time they are released.

Thanks again,
Dave