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Summary of Testimony before House Education Committee

Vermont's Dual Enrollment Program

March 11, 2015

What is Vermont's continuation challenge?

Of the 6,000 students who graduate from Vermont high schools annually, 52% or about 3,000 enroll in college after graduating.

Only 35% of those 3,000 college attendees are from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Source: New England Secondary School Consortium Common Data Project: 2012 – 2013 Annual Report

In conclusion, economically-disadvantaged students are either not attending college or they are doing so in much lower numbers than their classmates.

Engaging these students, and increasing their continuation rate, will help many more Vermonters access the jobs of the future, most of which will require education beyond high school.

Why is dual enrollment a solution?

National studies show that dual enrollment students are:

- nearly two times more likely to graduate from high school,
- two times more likely to enroll in two- or four-year colleges,
- Two times more likely to earn a college degree.

These results are the same for all income levels.

Source: Jobs for the Future, *Taking College Courses in High School: A Strategy for College Readiness*, 2012

What is the current status of Dual Enrollment in Vermont?

In 2013, Act 77, the Flexible Pathways Initiative, provided additional funding for the Vermont Dual Enrollment program. It allows each Vermont high school student to take two college courses while still in high school, at no charge to the student. Students receive both high school and college credit for each course.

Participation has doubled from 612 students in 2013 to 1,292 students -- representing every Vermont county -- in 2014. Flexible Pathways has given 680 more students a taste of college.

Source: Vermont AOE Annual Report on Dual Enrollment

Is Dual Enrollment helping continuation rates for target populations?

Yes.

- In 2013, 612 students participating in dual enrollment in 53 – or 9% – were on Free and Reduced Lunch. In 2014, that rate rose to 27%, from 53 to 353 in one year; increase of 300 students.
- We also saw increases in participation of English Language Learners (from 7 in 2013 to 86 in 2014) and Special Education (from 1 in 2013 to 43 in 2014) students.
- At CCV, 84% of students took a Dual Enrollment course between 2011-2013 are now enrolled in college, 68% are enrolled in a college in Vermont

How does Dual Enrollment make a difference to individuals?

A Middlebury High School student was a first generation student from a low-income family. She took Introduction to College Studies in the fall semester of 2013 and then used her voucher to take English Composition that spring. She is currently enrolled at CCV in Liberal Studies with plans to go to CSC or UVM to pursue a career in the health care field.

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