

Appropriations Committee  
Vermont House of Representatives

I would like to express my opposition to the proposal to eliminate funding for the field sites of the Community High school.

As a member of the Vermont Interfaith Action group that has done research on the problems of inmates and their return to society, I feel the CHS plays a crucial role in giving skills to inmates that helps reduce recidivism.

CHSVT understands the difficulties of these students who are not traditional learners. Academic and work readiness skills are taught plus "Habits of Mind", a program that encourages positive self awareness of triggers that lead to self defeating behaviors and low self esteem in individuals. These are skills that are essential for the inmate returning to society and to be able to survive in a difficult world. A world that they had failed to be successful in initially.

The CHS program is recognized by national professionals in Correction Education as one of the best. Research shows that providing education to inmates reduces recidivism and gives cost savings to the State. The upfront investment pays off in the long run.

I strongly request that the funding for CHS be restored.



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