

Vermont State Colleges: Summary of Requests, FY2016

<b>FY2016 VSC Base Appropriation</b>	<b>FY2017 Governor's Recommendation</b>	<b>VSC FY2017 Request</b>
\$25,458,239	\$25,458,239	\$25,622,088

1. Link the Vermont State Colleges' base appropriation to the same annual percentage increase as the General Fund transfer to the Education Fund, starting in FY2017. Cost: \$213,849.

Enrolling over 10,000 Vermonters annually, the Vermont State Colleges are the de facto extension of the Vermont public education system into higher education. 65% of all Vermonters going to college in state attend the VSC -- more than all other institutions combined. We confer over 1,600 degrees to Vermonters annually. Increased college degree attainment among Vermonters will bend the curve on income inequality and human services costs to the state. To maintain affordable, accessible, high-quality post-secondary education for the majority of Vermonters who will go to college, we propose modest, annual increases that will turn the corner on state support.

Proposed language:

*16 VSA §2171(f) is added to read: In partial fulfillment of the obligations of the State under subsection (a) above, for each fiscal year, the amount of General Funds appropriated to the Vermont State Colleges, or successor under 16 VSA § 2171 (a), shall be increased by no less than that fiscal year's percentage increase in the General Fund appropriation or transfer to the Education Fund under 16 VSA § 4025 (a) (2).*

<b>VSC FY2017 Request: Complete College Vermont</b>
\$2,900,000

2. Fund Complete College Vermont.

This program will provide incentives and supports for the VSC and UVM to encourage enrollment of and degree completion for first generation and economically-disadvantaged Vermont students. Colleges will be eligible for a \$2,000 support payment for every bachelor's degree and \$1,500 for every associates degree conferred to a student in this group. Funds will be used to build both financial aid and student support systems often necessary for degree completion in this cohort.

This proposal targets a growing gap in degree attainment in Vermont that will bear on the economic well-being of these individuals and of the state's economy. It was the result of a summer study recommending a results-based fund to incentivize public higher education to address low degree completion among this group.

<b>Governor's FY2017 Request: CCV Program for Young Adults</b>	<b>VSC FY2017 Request</b>
\$850,000	\$850,000

3. Fund the Governor's "MoveUp802" proposal in FY2017.

The growing percentage of Vermont high school graduates not continuing on to college poses a challenge for the State. Without some post-secondary credential or degree, young, working-age Vermonters are less likely to earn a wage that will help them get ahead. Lack of financial stability will have long-term, negative impacts on their personal well-being. These young people are more likely to need assistance from the State at some point in their lives. An opportunity to pursue post-secondary education can be transformative and prepare more young Vermonters for success in the workforce.

The Governor proposes \$850,000 to build out a successful Community College of Vermont program targeted at increasing educational opportunities for high school graduates who have not pursued any further education. It provides funds for counselors to provide outreach and the intensive advising that has proven successful at keeping these students coming to class. Additional funds provide vouchers to pay for up to five free courses that qualified participants can take at any one of the State Colleges or at the University of Vermont.