



FY
18

Testimony before House Education Committee

January 25, 2017

Scott A. Giles, President and CEO

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation



Creating opportunities
for all Vermont
students,
but especially for
those
—of any age—
who believe that
the doors to
education and training
are closed to them.





pathways to postsecondary education

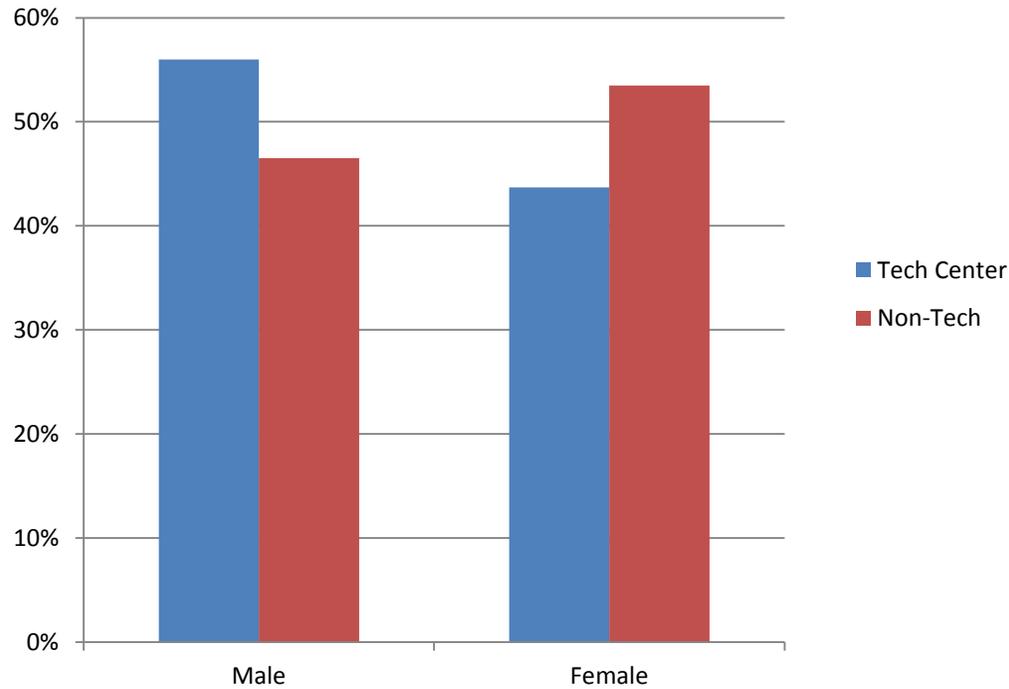
PreK-6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Postsecondary
VHEIP — VT's 529 college savings plan							
Naviance							
PLP training							
GEAR UP							GEAR UP scholarships
Talent Search							
School counselor training							
		Roadmaps to College website & e-mail communications to students and parents					
			College Pathways				
					Paying for College nights		
					Forms nights		
					FAFSA completion		
							GUIDE
				Intro to College Studies			
				Remedial vouchers			Career & financial aid at CCV sites
Lamoille Aspirations Initiative							
Bellows Falls Aspirations Initiative							
							Educational Opportunity Centers for adult learners



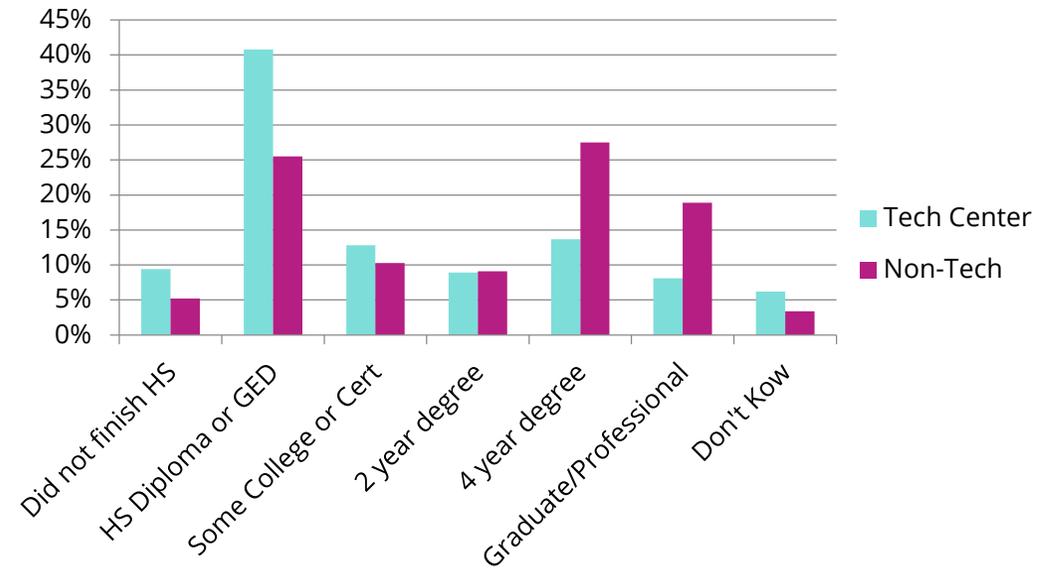
VSAC pathways to education and training

Demographics—Class of 2016

Tech Center Respondents Were More Likely To Be Male

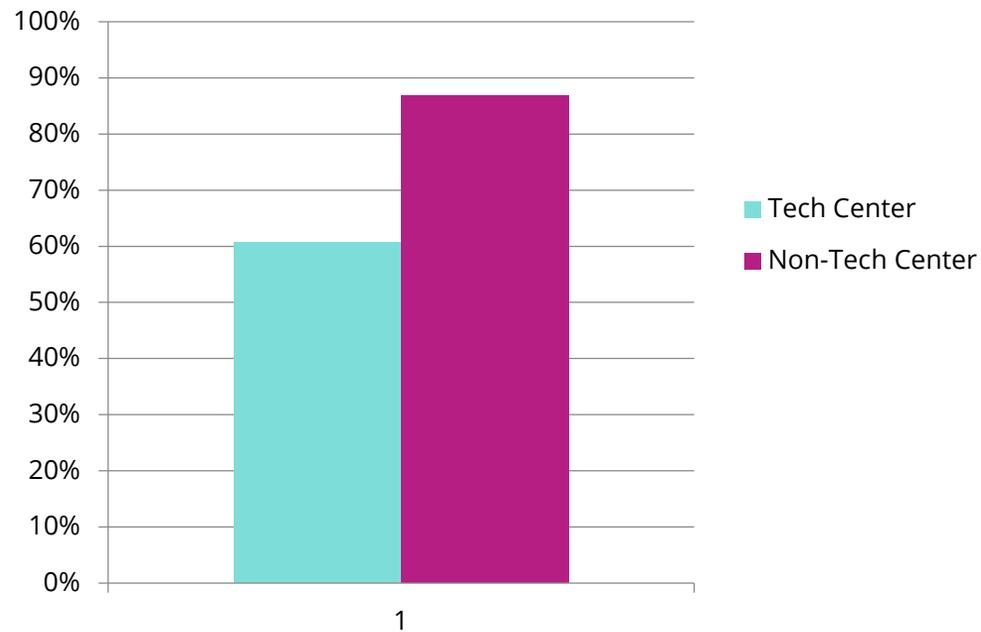


Tech Center Respondents Were More Likely to Have Parents with No Education Past HS

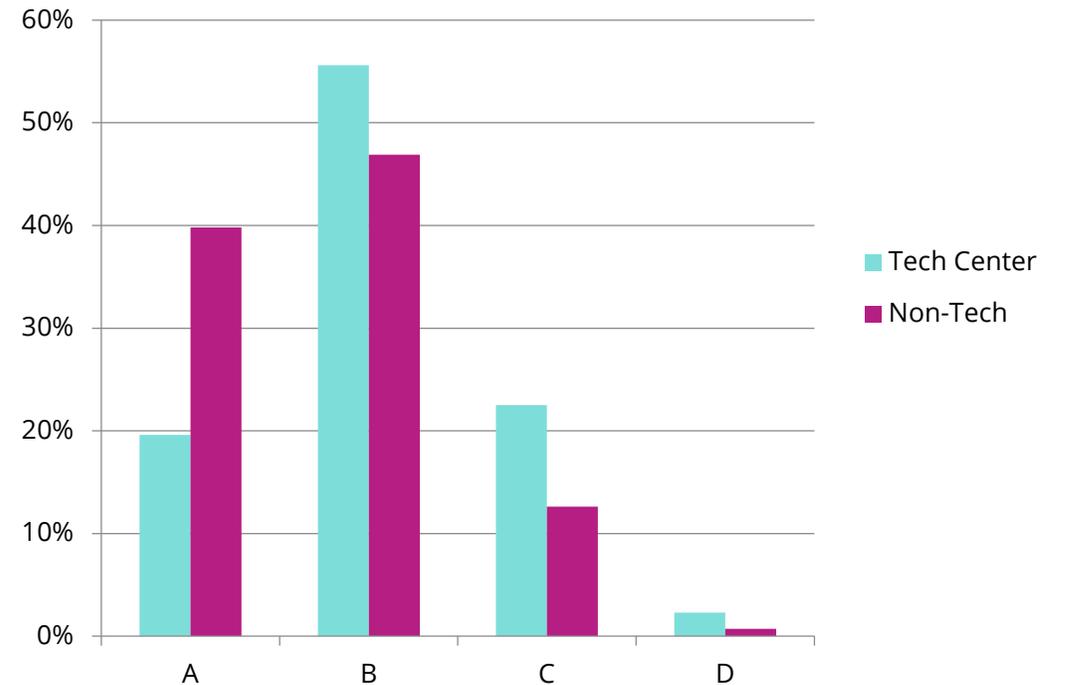


Academics

Tech Center Respondents Were Less Likely to Report Taking Algebra II

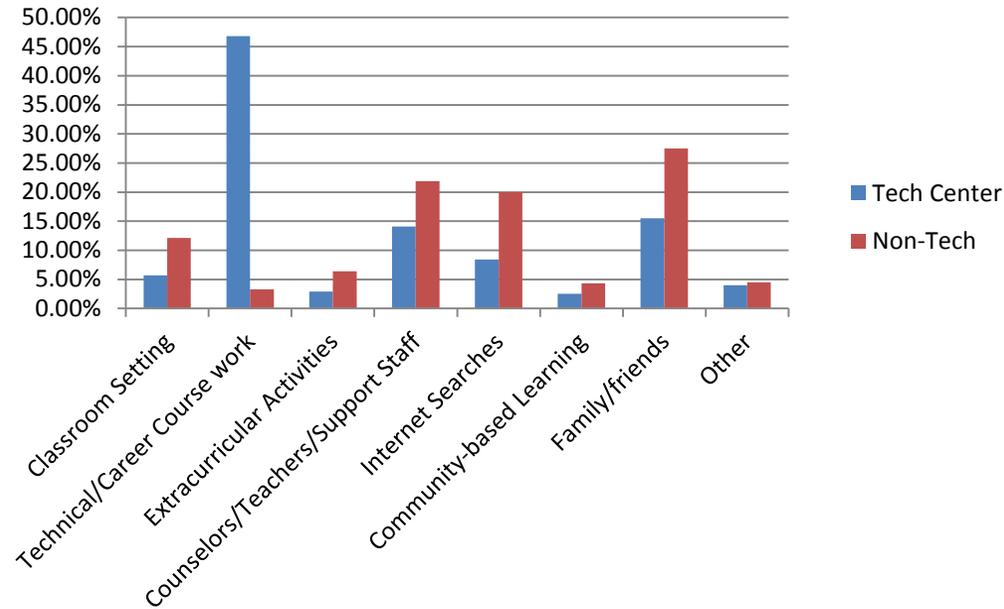


Non-Tech Center Respondents Report Receiving Higher Grades

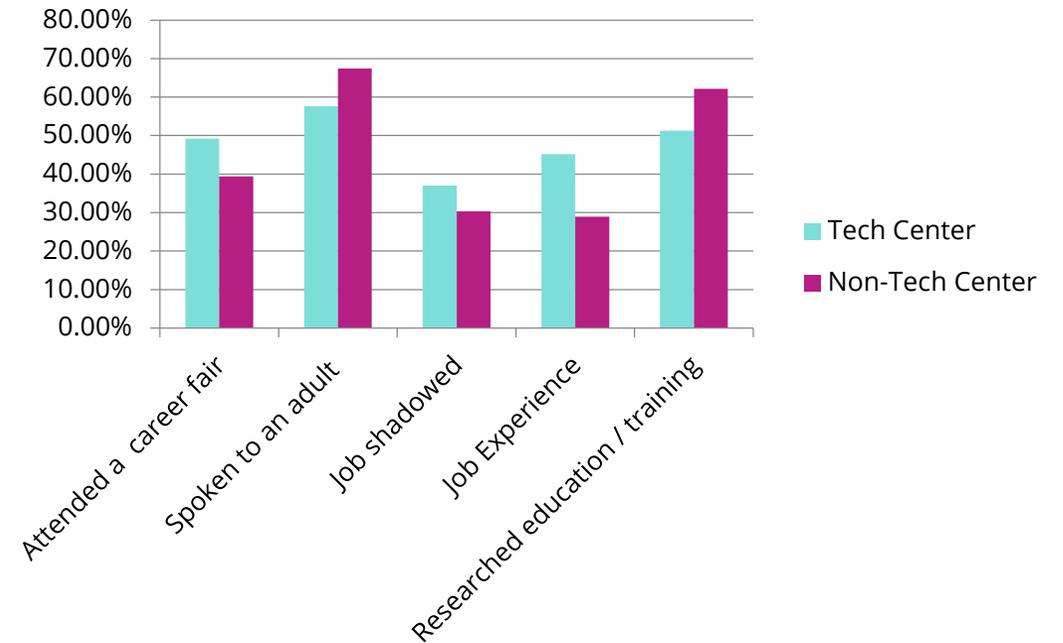


Career Counseling

Tech Center Respondents Received Info About Postsecondary Education Through Tech Courses

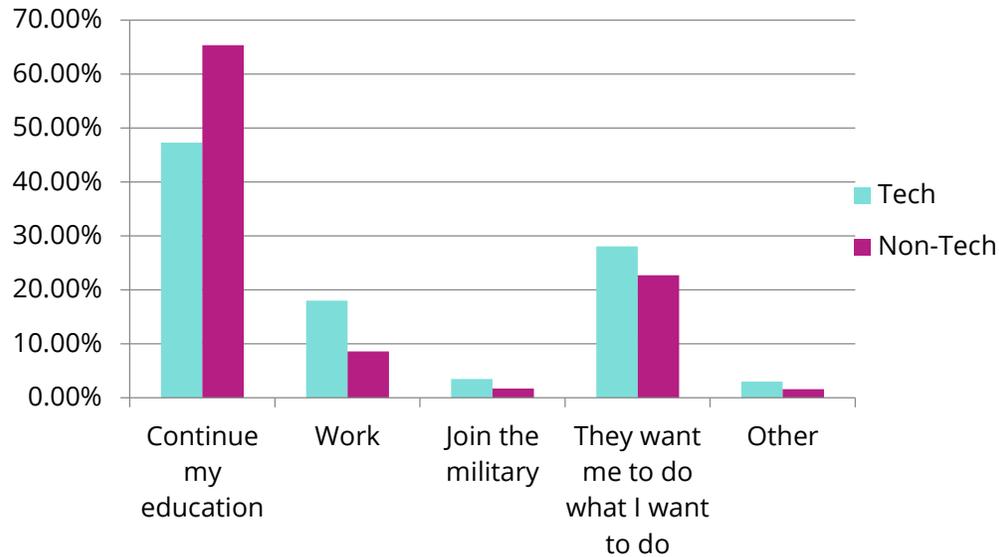


Tech Center Students More Likely To Attend Career Fair, Job Shadow or Cite Work Experience As Part of their Preparation For Life After High School

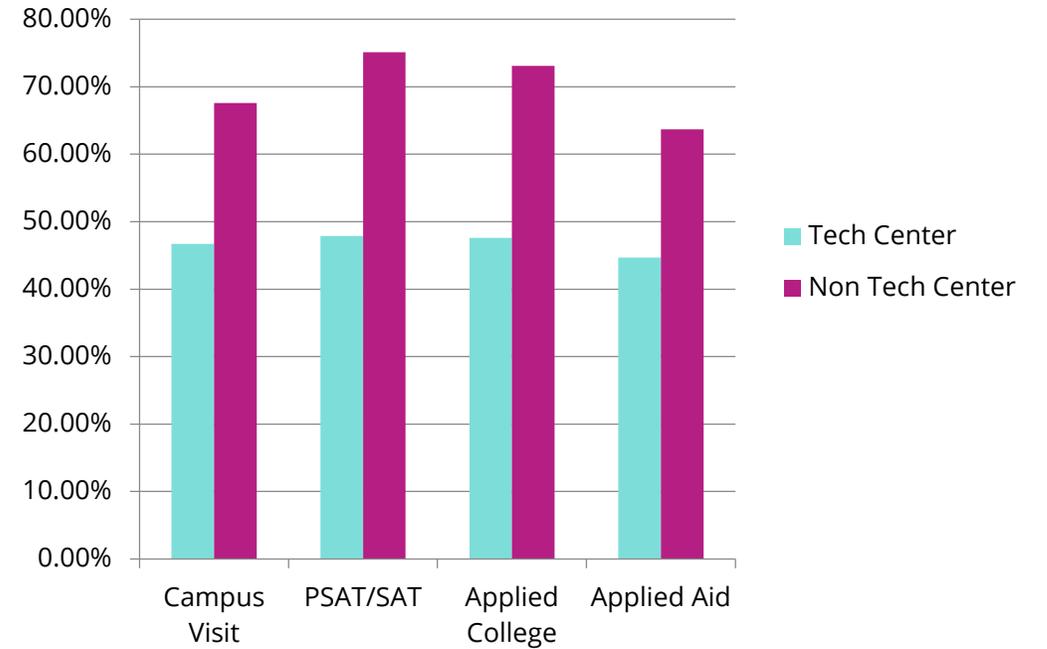


Parental Expectations

What Do Their Parents Want?

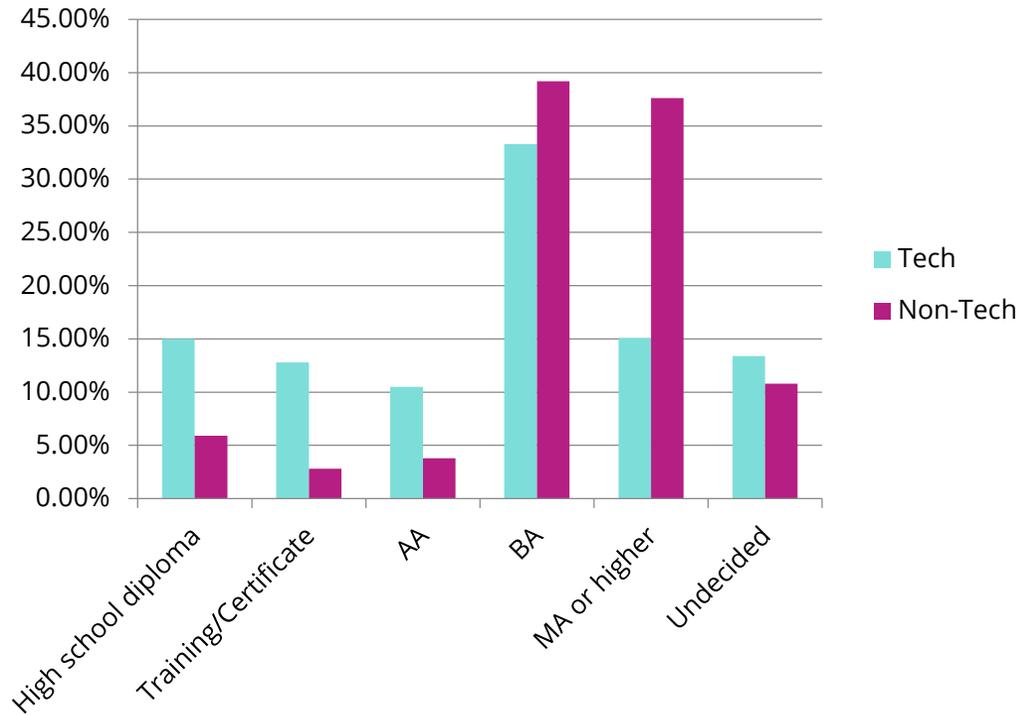


Tech Center Students Less Likely to Take Steps Leading to Postsecondary Education/Training

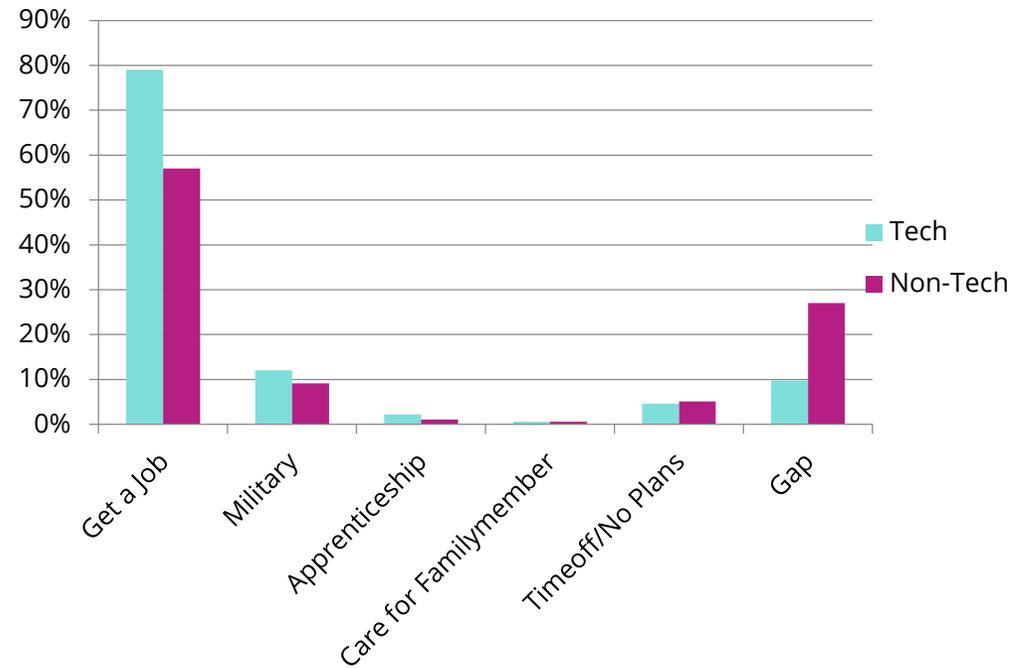


What Are Their Plans?

Work, Training, or Education?

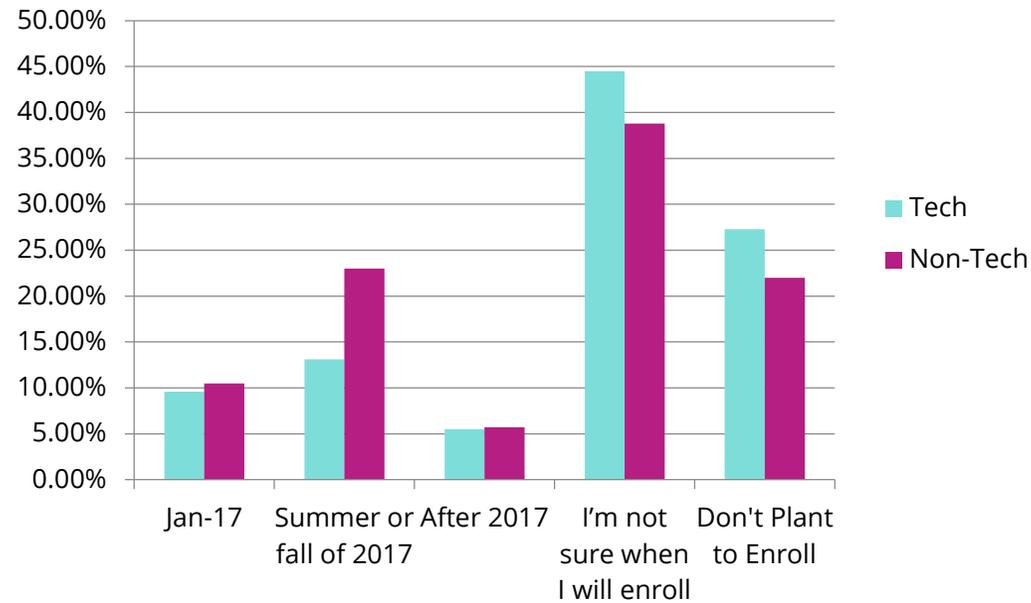


Career Bound



Support for Young Adults Remains Pressing Need

Career Bound Students Are Unsure About Their Future Education and Training Goals



- Research
- Remedial Courses
- Access to adult tech center courses not offered during school day

VSAC new initiatives

- Career and Education Wellness
- FAFSA Completion Initiative
- New “Aspirations” projects
- [70X2025.org](https://70x2025.org)





Appendix

Vermont State Grant programs

FY16

In the 2015-2016 academic year (FY 2016), VSAC awarded 13,030 need-based education grants to students attending school full- or part-time, or enrolled in nondegree courses of study.

VT Grant Program	\$ Awarded	Grant Awards
Full-time	\$15.5 M	8,297
Part-time	\$1.5 M	3,008
Nondegree	\$3.0 M	1,725

Saving for the future generation

The **Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan** seeks to help families begin to save early and reduce their need for borrowing when the time comes to pursue postsecondary education or training.

It is also one way grandparents can help ensure a lasting legacy.

As of September 30, 2016 VHEIP had more than 17,000 active accounts and \$292 million in assets.

Since its inception, VHEIP families have withdrawn more than \$116 million to help 4,722 students pay for college.



Middle and High School Students

Two federal grants (**Talent Search and GEAR UP**) provide targeted information and counseling services to low-income and first generation students beginning as early as 7th grade.

Whole schools are served as well, by providing services to a cohort of students and professional development opportunities for school counselors. In addition, VSAC provides access to **Naviance and PLP training** to all public middle and high schools.

Aspiration Projects are being conducted at three high-need high schools to increase the proportion of students to continue their studies after high school.



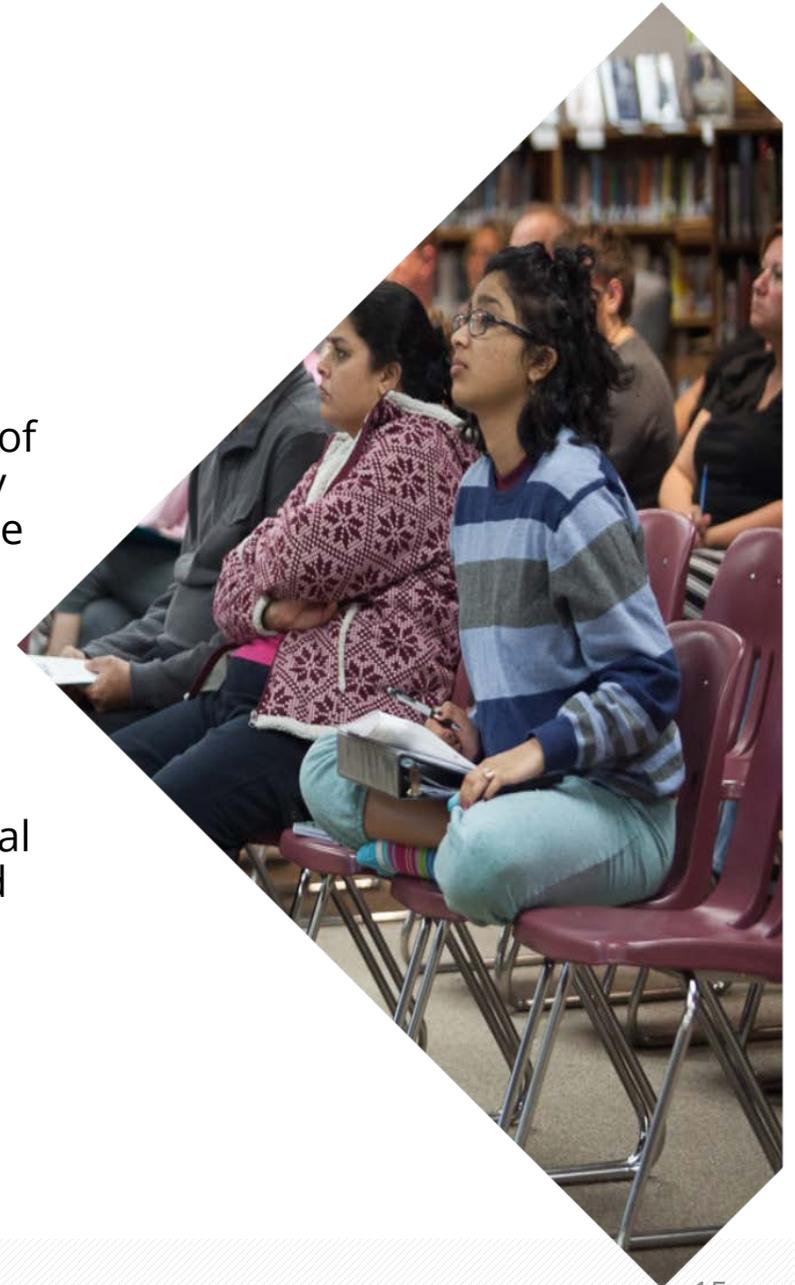
High school juniors and seniors

VSAC presents **College Pathways**, the state's largest college planning event on three college campuses in the spring of each year. A full range of workshops led by experts provides students and parents the opportunity to learn about the college application process and for many, visit a college campus for the first time.

Dual enrollment stipends are available to low-income students who need to pay for books and/or transportation to a college campus.

Early College

"Paying for College" workshops go to where Vermonters are: their local high school. VSAC counselors visited 65 high schools last year and served more than 2,490 students and parents.



College Students and Parents

Vermont State Grants

Vermont Opportunity Scholarship
for former foster children

Administrator of private and public
Scholarships

GUIDE a program for first year college students who were served by outreach programs; provides support to improve retention

Vermont Advantage Loan

Vermont Advantage Parent Loan



Adult Students

A federally-funded **Educational Opportunity Center** grant allows VSAC to work with adults who want to enter, or continue a program of study.

First in the nation, Vermont's **Nondegree grant** aids adult students who are trying to improve their employability by either gaining specific job skills through a training program or through higher education.

The Vermont National Guard Education Assistance Program helps our members of the Guard pursue their education both while and after they serve.



After College:

Launched **Vermont Advantage Loan Coach**: free, in-depth personalized education debt counseling

VSAC consistently outperforms other loan student loan servicers, receiving top rankings with our world-class **Customer Relations** team

Saved borrowers nearly \$175M over the last 20 years, through its **Borrower Benefits** program

Delinquency prevention



A Statewide leader and partner

VSAC serves as the coordinating agency for **70x2025vt.org**, the state's postsecondary education completion efforts

Leads **FAFSA Completion Initiative**

Administers the **Chafee Education and Training Voucher** for AHS and **the Health Incentive Scholarship** for the Vermont Department of Health

Awarded grants through the **McClure Foundation** and **Lumina Foundation**

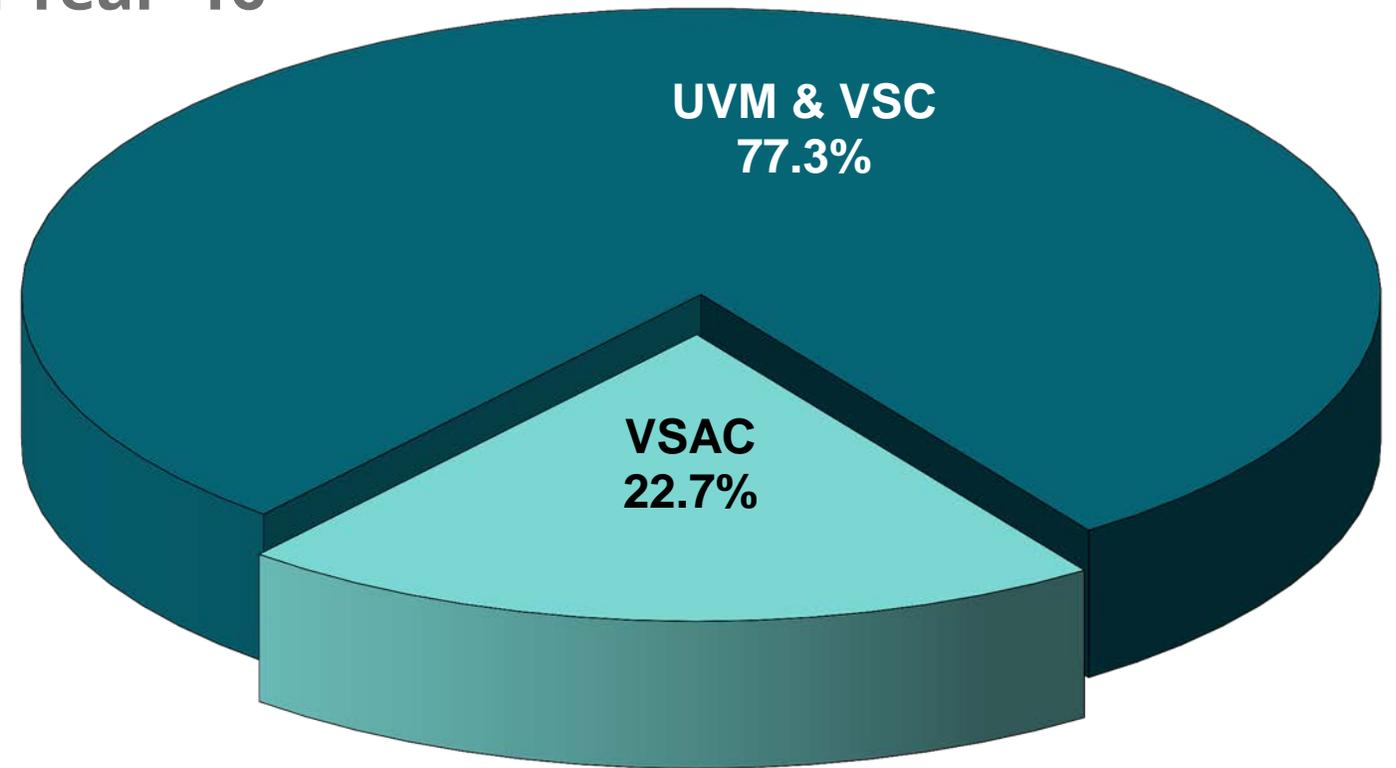
Senior Survey, a statewide survey of high school graduates' postsecondary plans and enrollment

Provide **professional development** workshops and events for secondary and postsecondary education and financial aid professionals



State Funding for HE Institutions

For Public Institutions & VSAC
Fiscal Year '16





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