



**FY** Testimony before Senate Education Committee  
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## VSAC Portability Highlights FY2017

Serving Vermonters since 1965

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# Portability: Vermont's Policy

## What is it?

“Portability” is a policy that allows low-income grant recipients to choose academic programs that best meet their education goals, regardless of geographic location.

Groundbreaking 1965 state legislation established VSAC's role to specifically serve Vermont's students. Portability became a fundamental principle of the State's need-based grant programs.

By enabling grant recipients to choose from an array of academic programs and institutions regardless of geographic location, portability expands education opportunities for eligible Vermonters far beyond that which a small state of limited resources could offer.

The goal was, and continues to be, to provide these students with the same academic and training opportunities that exist for those who have greater financial means. The student's choices are dependent on ability, aspirations, and preparation.



# Portability's Impact

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**Provides more than 3,800 low-income Vermonters with:**

- Access to the nation's most rigorous academic institutions
- Access to programs not available in Vermont
- Access to cultural and urban environments not available in Vermont
- Access, in some border areas, to institutions and programs closer to home than the nearest Vermont institution



# Portability by County

- Approximately 3 in 10 Vermont grant recipients attended out-of-state institutions in FY17.
- Anywhere from 22% to 45% of low-income grant recipients across Vermont's counties benefit from the policy.

County	All Grant Recipients
Addison	34%
Bennington	42%
Caledonia	30%
Chittenden	24%
Essex	39%
Franklin	28%
Grand Isle	26%
Lamoille	22%
Orange	33%
Orleans	27%
Rutland	27%
Washington	27%
Windham	45%
Windsor	42%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>31%</b>

# Leveraging Additional Aid

Additional aid awarded to full-time grant recipients attending out-of-state institutions



Institutional  
Work-Study  
\$3.3

Institutional  
Loans  
\$1.5

Scholarships  
\$7.1

Institutional Grants  
\$45.1

Total Aid= \$57 Million