



CASTLETON UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF VERMONT
JOHNSON STATE COLLEGE
LYNDON STATE COLLEGE
VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

VSCS Retention and Graduation Rates

House Appropriations Committee, Thursday May 9, 2019

Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor

Tricia Coates, Director of External and Governmental Affairs

What are “Retention” and “Graduation Rates” What do those figures *miss*?

Retention: For 4-year institutions, the percentage of first-time, full-time bachelor’s degree-seeking students from the previous fall term who enroll again in the most recent fall term.

Graduation rates: The percentage of first-time, full-time students who graduate within 150% of the time that is normally required for the program they are in.

These do not measure:

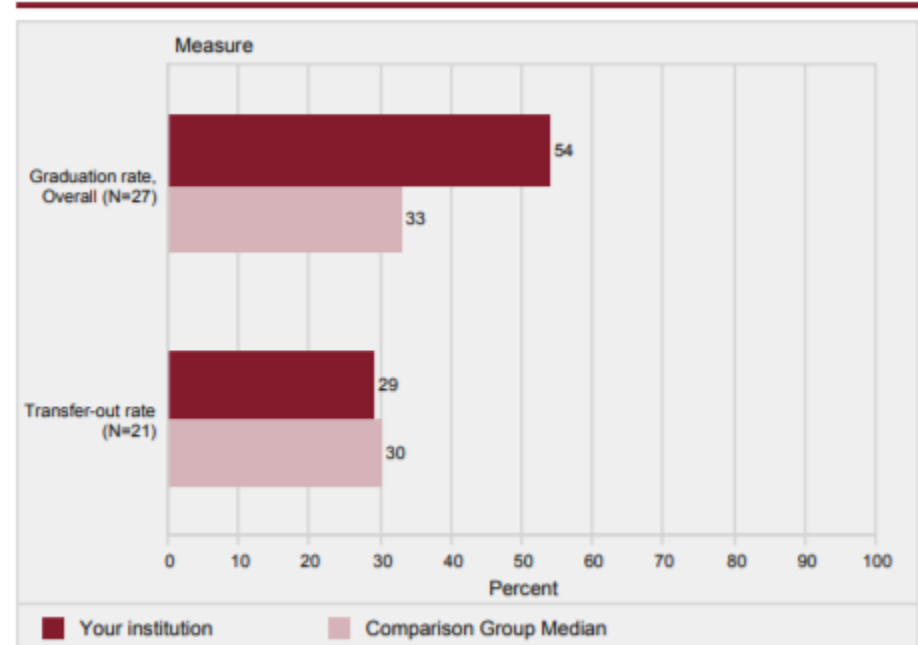
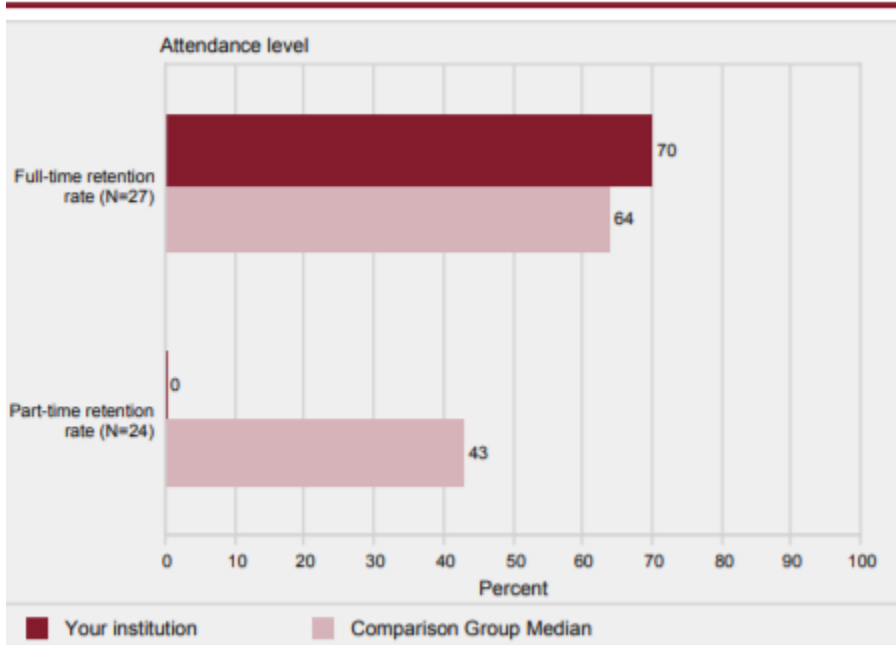
- The number of students who transfer.
- Success of students who take longer than 150% of time to graduation.
- Part-time student success.
- Non-enrolled student success.

Sources: National Center for Educational Statistics, [2018 IPEDS Report](#) and [VSCS Sourcebook](#)

VSCS Retention and Graduation Rates

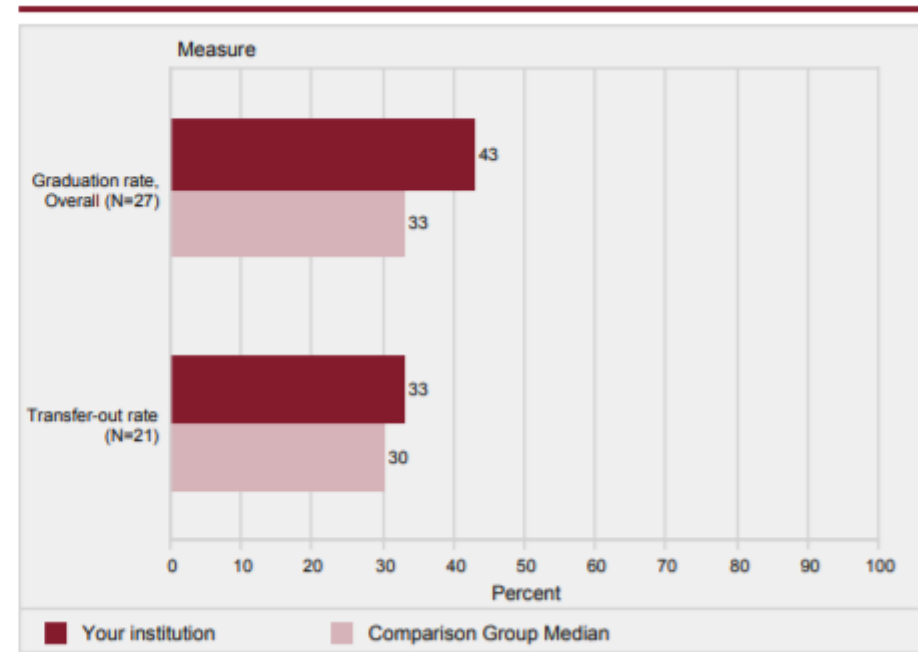
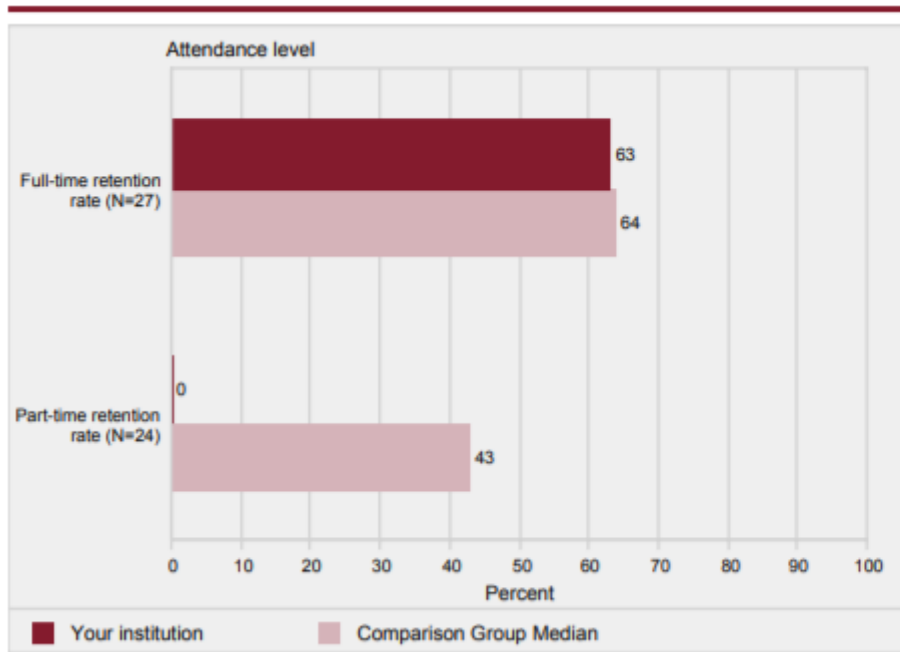
	First year Retention	Graduation Rate
<u>Castleton University</u>	70%	54%
<i>National peer group</i>	64%	33%
Northern Vermont University		
<u>Lyndon</u>	63%	43%
<u>Johnson</u>	64%	38%
<i>National peer group</i>	65%	34%
<u>Vermont Tech</u>	66%	52%
<i>National peer group</i>	60%	34%
<u>Community College of VT</u>	60%	21%
<i>National peer group</i>	59%	23%

Retention and Graduation: Castleton



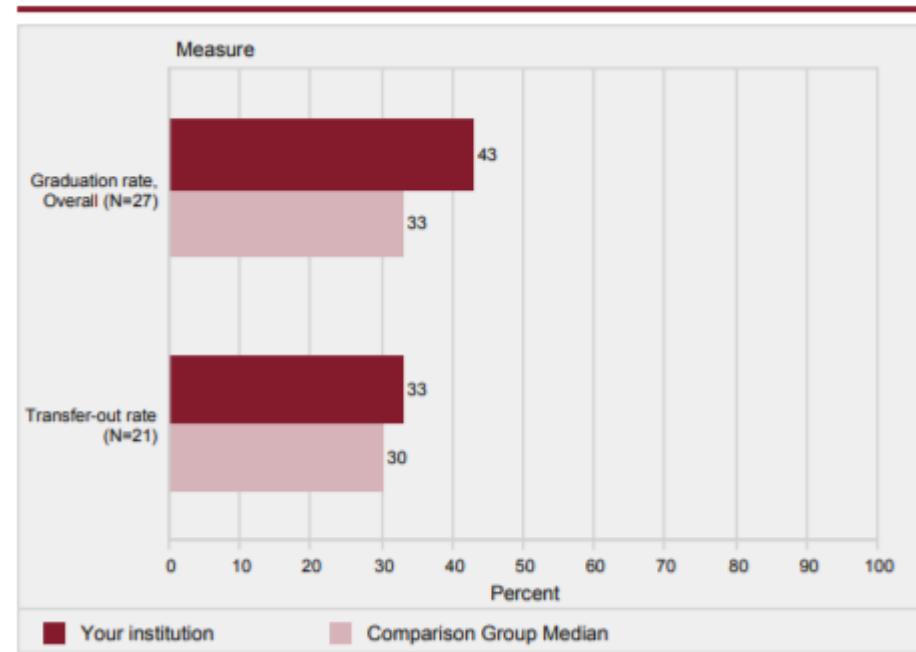
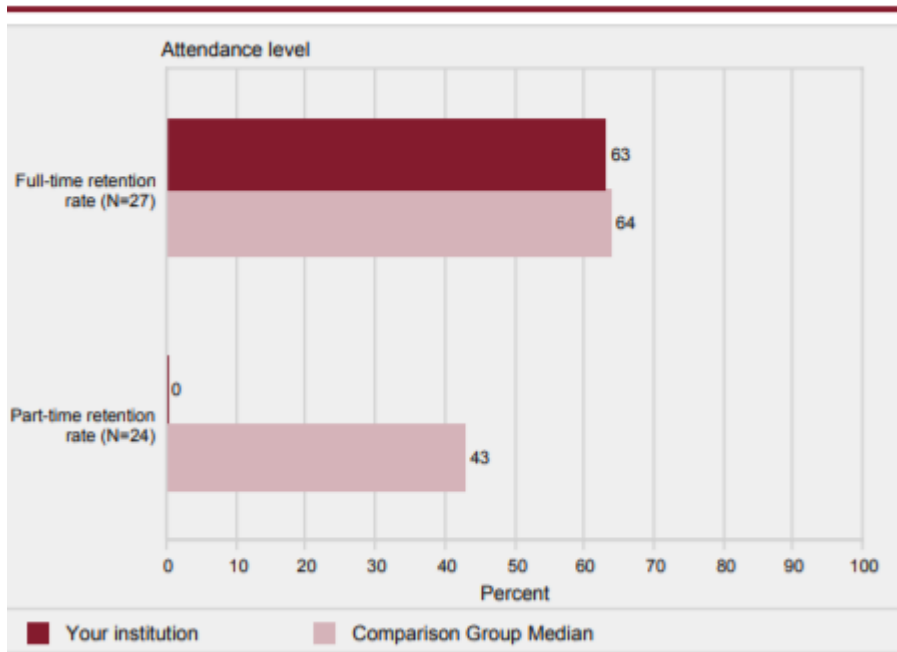
[Castleton University: 2018 IPEDS](#)

Retention and Graduation: NVU-Lyndon



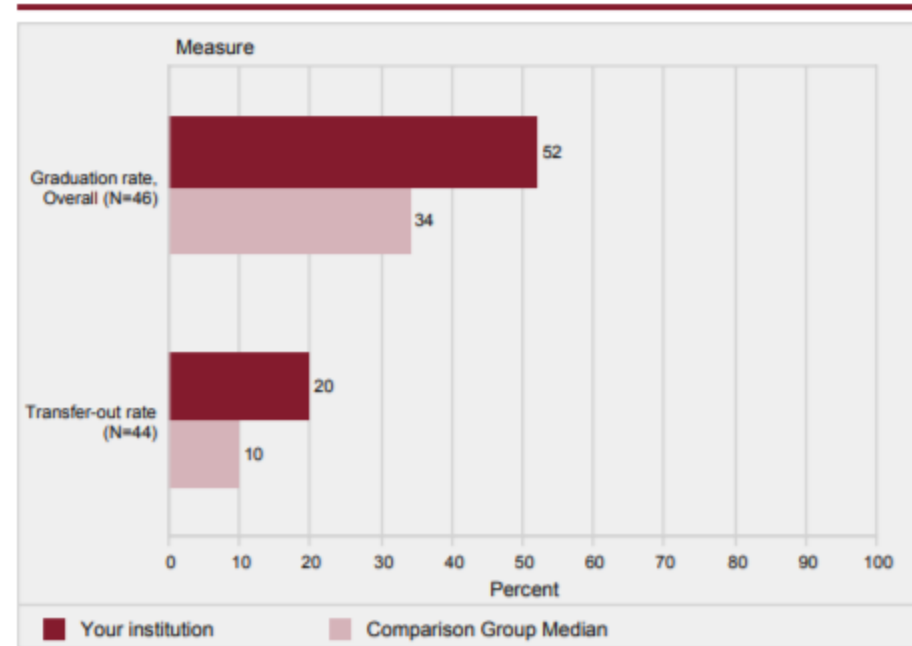
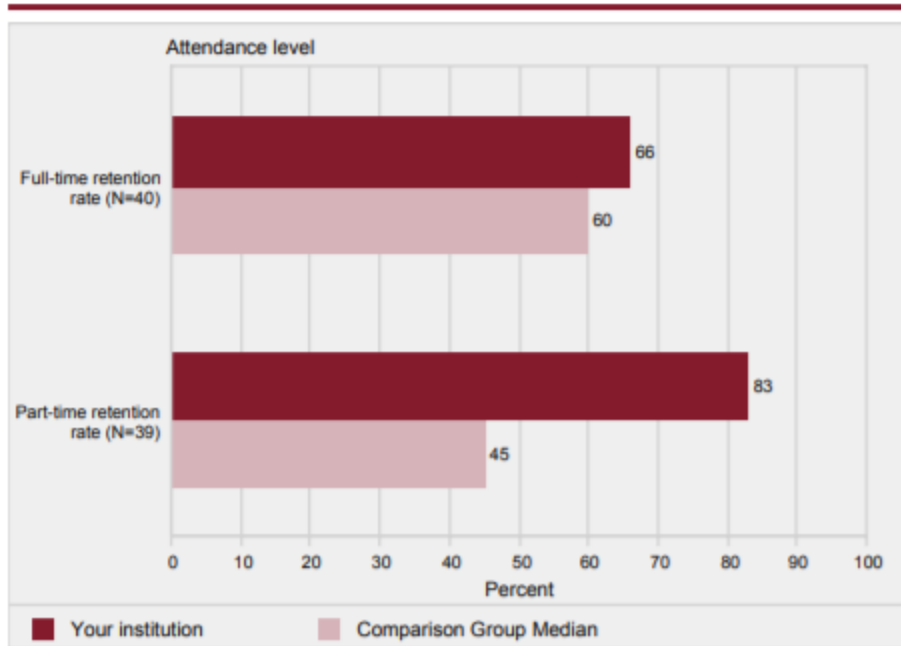
[NVU-Lyndon 2018 IPEDS report](#)

Retention and Graduation: NVU-Johnson



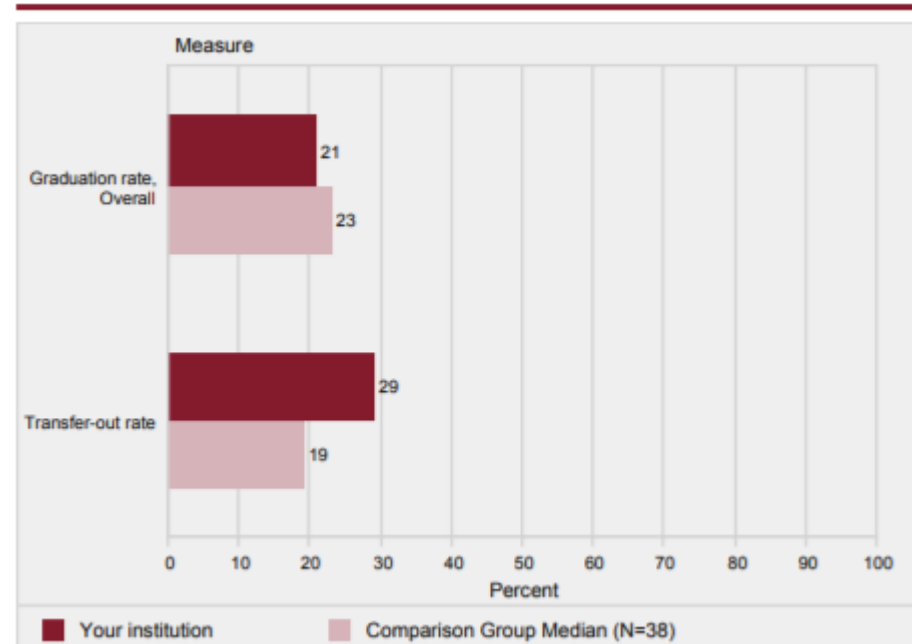
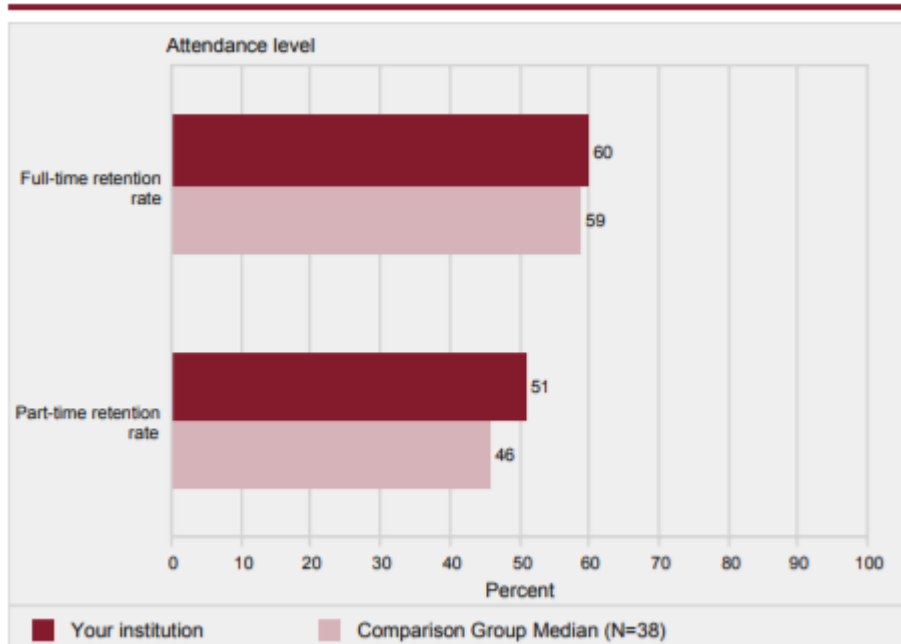
[NVU-Johnson 2018 IPEDS Report](#)

Retention and Graduation: VT Tech



[Vermont Tech: 2018 IPEDS Report](#)

Retention and Graduation: CCV

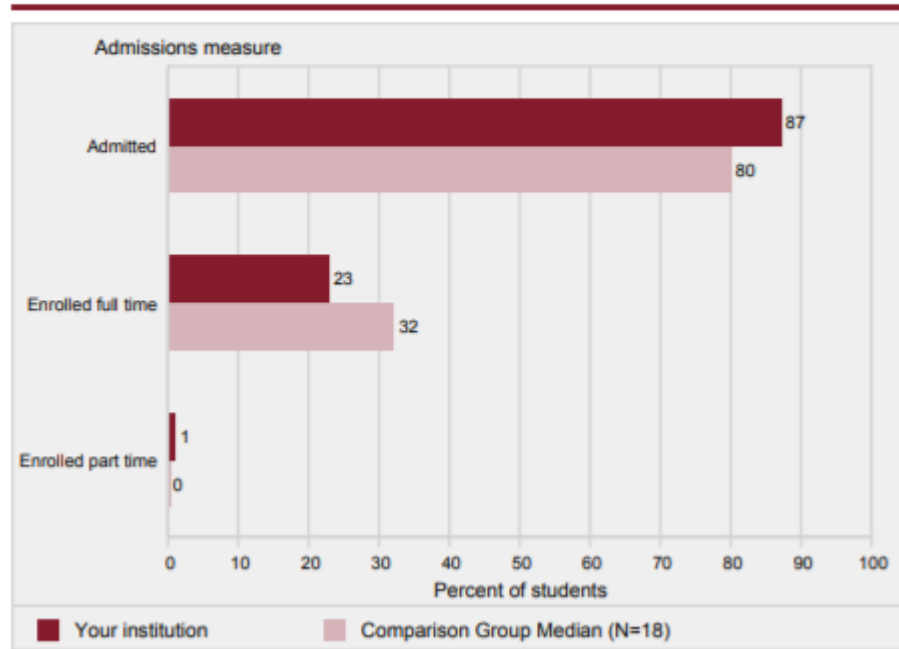


[Community College of Vermont: 2018 IPEDS Report](#)

Our student body profile impacts semester-to-semester persistence.

1. Wide-range of college preparedness. (ie. NVU-Johnson)

Figure 2. Percent of first-time undergraduate applicants admitted, and percent of admissions enrolled, by full- and part-time status: Fall 2017



Student body profile, cont.

2. Majority of VSCS students are low-income and/or first generation.

	% of Pell-Eligibility	% of First-Gen Students
Castleton University	40%	49%
NVU-Johnson	52%	50%
NVU-Lyndon	47%	45%
Vermont Tech	39%	37%
CCV	46%	62%

Student body profile, cont.

3. Many students are working-aged.

Percentage of students over 25 years of age:

Castleton	8%
NVU (Combined)	24%
Vermont Tech	37%
CCV	41%

Student body profile, cont.

4. Part-time college-going

% of students attending part time

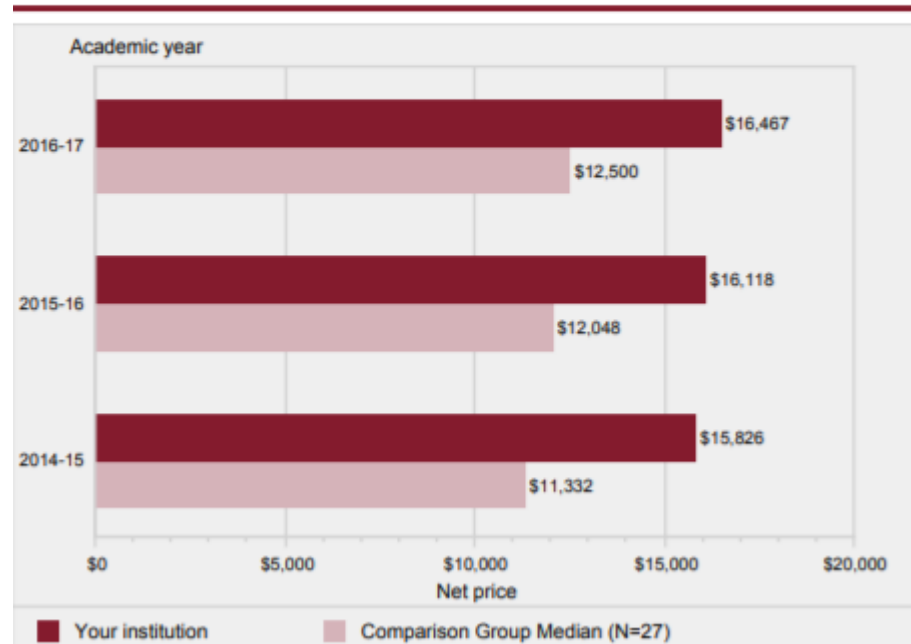
Castleton University	5%
NVU	14%
Vermont Tech	22%
CCV	70%

Student body profile, cont.

5. Low levels of aid
= high cost.

ie. Castleton University

Figure 7. Average net price of attendance for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students, who were awarded grant or scholarship aid: 2014-15 to 2016-17



VSCS Retention and Completion Initiatives:

1. Board Priority: “Improve the retention and graduation rates at our colleges.”
2. Systemwide “Start to Finish” project: data driven initiatives focusing academic, advising and IT resources on retention.
 - Relevant and relational advising strategies
 - Early warning systems and supports
 - Curriculum streamlining and degree maps
3. New IT investments to support student success: Learning Management System and Advising Software
4. Consistent messaging about persistence.
5. Many campus-level efforts, like NVU-Johnson’s \$1.8 million federal grant to improve retention and graduation rates, focused on first-year retention.

Importance of House-passed \$3.0 million to retention, graduation

- Maintains the work of our student support services staff.
- Supports our investments in technology that improves advising and learning outcomes.
- Increases capacity of colleges to give institutional financial aid.
- Increase affordability for students.