



ASSOCIATION OF VERMONT
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

...independent thinking for a collaborative world

To: The Honorable Phil Scott, Governor of Vermont
CC: House and Senate Appropriation Committees
House and Senate Education Committees
FROM: Susan Stitely, President, Association of Vermont Independent Colleges (AVIC)
Re: CARES Act Education Stabilization Fund: Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Grants: Proposed Allocation by Sector in Vermont

The CARES Act includes \$4,488,802 in the Governor's Emergency Educational Funds (GEER) for Governor Scott to allocate to educational entities, both public and private, to help alleviate the negative impacts of COVID-19. The funds are geared toward helping institutions of higher education and K-12 schools to ensure continued delivery of educational services and support the on-going functionality of each educational entity. The Association of Vermont Independent Colleges (AVIC) recommends allocating Vermont's funds on an equal per student basis.¹

We believe this method is ideal for meeting the intentions of the grant by aiding the most number of students with need in the most efficient way. The grant requires an expeditious distribution of funds. A per student distribution achieves this. Although GEER dollars can be distributed through a grant process, this would slow the fund allocation down by weeks, at a minimum and disadvantage those without staff capacity to assemble a competitive grant.

All education institutions across the state have been affected by COVID-19 in different ways, and will continue to have ongoing effects. Each institution has shifted to remote delivery of education with the accompanying costs and challenges that demands. Low-income students, students requiring additional instruction, and students who have lost their jobs or have parents or guardians that have lost their jobs are found in every corner of the state.

K-12 schools, colleges, and universities each have unique needs to maintain educational programming and ensure that students can continue to learn under these extenuating

circumstances. Local districts and institutions are in the best position to know what needs are unmet among their student population and how to continue operations. With funds directly allocated to each district or institution, each educational community can make a determination on how best to spend the funds, within the parameters set by the legislation, to help meet the greatest needs.

Please consider the following calculations (two charts) as a starting point for distribution of GEER funding. Note that the data is based on headcounts. This does benefit VSC as they have many part-time students.

Thank you for your consideration.

	FY 2018 Headcount - All Students	CARES Act State Funds per Sector (allocated equally by student)
K-12	83,215	\$2,663,394
Private Colleges	22,923	\$733,678
University of Vermont	15,629	\$500,225
Vermont State Colleges	18,481	\$591,506
Total	140,248	\$4,488,802

**Total GEER Dollars in
VT** **\$4,488,802**
Per Student Allocation **\$32.01**

Data Notes: K-12 enrollment data is from the Vermont Agency of Education website. IPEDS used for postsecondary enrollment. Post-secondary estimates are for FY 2018 students, total year headcount.

CARES Act State Funds per Sector (allocated equally by student)

