

2019 Budget Education

No. 72
2019

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(21) To the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living: \$750,000. These funds shall be matched with federal Medicaid funds and expended in equal amounts over fiscal years 2020 through 2022. In each year these funds shall be for the statewide administration of the Support and Services at Home (SASH) program. The intent is for this portion of statewide administration funding to transition to the statewide ACO as additional Medicare covered lives are attributed to the ACO during this three-year period. These funds are in addition to other funding included in the Department's budget for SASH. The Department shall include a report on the SASH statewide administration with the fiscal year 2021 budget presentation.

(22) To the Department of Labor: \$70,000 to design a coordinated plan for an integrated postsecondary career and technical education system and to provide services and support for New Americans pursuant to requirements enacted during the 2019 legislative session.

(23) To the Vermont State Colleges: \$200,000 for Vermont Technical College to design and pilot Associates Degree Programs consistent with the provisions of H.533, Sec. 17 of 2019. Any program designed and implemented pursuant to this subdivision subsequent to the pilot, shall not be funded by the General Fund.

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(24) To the Vermont State Colleges: \$500,000 which is intended as bridge funding to permit the Vermont State Colleges in collaboration with the University of Vermont to develop comprehensive strategies to increase

retention and graduation rates pursuant to Secs. E.603.1 and E.603.2 of
this act.

(25) To the Vermont State Colleges: \$120,000. The Vermont State
Colleges shall be the repository for the Burlington College student records.

(26) To the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation: \$500,000 to be
administered in a manner that is consistent with both the existing advancement
grants program and the one-time nature of this appropriation.

(27) To the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation: \$100,000 for
supplemental funding for the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic
Collaborative grants awarded in fiscal year 2020.

(28) To the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation: \$120,000 for
logger safety and value-added forest products initiatives as follows:

(A) To support the costs of a request for proposal to develop at least
three course curriculums and associated training materials for an accident
prevention and safety training program for logging contractors.

(B) Grants for the purposes of providing financial assistance to
reduce the total cost of the following programs for loggers:

(i) to the Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism
(LEAP) program for the purpose of providing financial assistance to logging
contractors to reduce the total costs of logger safety training or continuing
education in logger safety; and

prescription drugs. Any unobligated funds may be allocated by the Commissioner to fund the work of the Drug Task Force or carried forward.

Sec. E.212 Public safety – fire safety

(a) Of this General Fund appropriation, \$55,000 shall be granted to the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force for the purpose of designing dry hydrants.

Sec. E.215 Military – administration

(a) The amount of \$1,426,718 shall be disbursed to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for the National Guard Educational Assistance program established in 16 V.S.A. § 2856 and the National Guard Tuition Benefit Program established in 16 V.S.A. § 2857.

Sec. E.219 Military – veterans' affairs

(a) Of this appropriation, \$1,000 shall be used for continuation of the Vermont Medal Program; \$4,800 shall be used for the expenses of the Governor's Veterans' Advisory Council; \$7,500 shall be used for the Veterans' Day parade; \$5,000 shall be used for the Military, Family, and Community Network; and \$10,000 shall be granted to the American Legion for the Boys' State and Girls' State programs.

Sec. E.219.1 [Deleted.]

Sec. E.220 Center for crime victim services

(a) Notwithstanding 20 V.S.A. § 2365(c), the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services shall transfer \$49,253 from the Domestic and Sexual Violence

(d) Of the General Funds appropriated to the Department of Labor, \$150,000 is allocated to support the program and may be used for program administration, wages for non-WIOA eligible youth, academic or skill instruction, participant transportation, or other non-federally fundable expenses.

(e) The Department shall collect the following information and make it available to the General Assembly upon request:

- (1) the number of youth enrolled and that have completed the program;
- (2) the age and town of residence of youth at the time of enrollment;
- (3) the number and types of certificates or credentials granted to participants;

(4) employment or post-secondary enrollment outcomes of participants in the second and fourth quarter of the year after enrollment;

(5) the total allocation of funding from federal, State, private, and philanthropic sources that is used to support the program; and

(6) any identified barriers that impede the success of the program either at the program or individual participant level.

* * * K-12 EDUCATION * * *

Sec. E.500 32 V.S.A. § 6075a is amended to read:

§ 6075a. EDUCATION FINANCIAL SYSTEMS FUND

~~There is created a special fund to be called the "Education Financial Systems Fund." The purpose of the Fund is to provide for implementation of a~~

~~uniform chart of accounts by the Agency of Education as provided in 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Secs. E.500.2 and E.500.3, and Sec. E.500.1 as amended by 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 58, Sec. E.500.1. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. E.500.1 16 V.S.A. § 4025 is amended to read:

§ 4025. EDUCATION FUND

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(b) Monies in the Education Fund may be used for the following:

* * *

(5) To make payments for contracted services to support statewide administrative education systems, including the costs of the statewide school finance and financial management data system to complete the reporting required by subdivision 242(4) of this title and pursuant to 2018 (Sp. Sess.) Acts and Resolves No. 11, Sec. E.500.1.

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Sec. E.500.2 EDUCATION FINANCIAL SYSTEMS FUND BALANCE
TRANSFER

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on July 1, 2019, any unencumbered balance in the Education Financial Systems Fund, established by 32 V.S.A. § 6075a, fund number 21244, shall be transferred to the Education Fund.

Sec. E.500.3 Education – finance and administration

(a) The Global Commitment funds appropriated in this section will be used for physician claims for determining medical necessity of Individualized Education Program (IEPs). It is the goal of these services to increase the access of quality health care to uninsured persons, underinsured persons, and Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sec. E.500.4 EDUCATION FINANCIAL SYSTEMS FUND BALANCE

TRANSFER USE

(a) \$600,000 of the unencumbered balance transferred to the Education Fund from the Education Financial Systems Fund by Sec. E.500.2 of this act shall be used for additional support to provide contractor assistance and on-site trainings.

Sec. E.500.5 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 11 (Sp. Sess.), Sec. E.500.1 is amended to read:

Sec. E.500.1 UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS SCHOOL FINANCE
AND FINANCIAL DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

(a) Not later than July 1, ~~2020~~ 2022, all Vermont supervisory unions, supervisory districts, school districts, and independent tech center districts shall utilize the same school finance and financial data management system. The system shall be selected by the Agency of Education per State procurement guidelines.

* * *

(c) ~~Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, supervisory unions with districts that are merging into a new governance structure as of July 1, 2018 and that have executed a contract on or before May 1, 2018 to acquire a new school finance and financial data system other than the management system selected by the Agency of Education to serve the merged system may delay adoption of the system selected by the Agency until July 1, 2021. [Repealed.]~~

(d) ~~Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, a supervisory union or a supervisory district that entered into a contract for a school finance and financial data management system on or after July 1, 2017, may delay adoption of the system selected by the Agency until July 1, 2021 or upon expiration of the current contract, whichever is earlier. [Repealed.]~~

Sec. E.501 Education – education services

(a) \$75,000 of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.501 of this act shall increase State match payments to schools participating in the national school lunch program to increase the purchase of locally produced foods.

Sec. E.501.1 BUILDING SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS FOR
STUDENTS

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$60,000 from the General Fund to the Agency of Education shall be used for a pass-through grant to Outright Vermont to provide funding for training and support of building safe, supportive, and healthy environments for all students.

Sec. E.502 Education – special education: formula grants

(a) Of the appropriation authorized in this section, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed \$3,764,490 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2020 as funding for 16 V.S.A.

§ 2967(b)(2)–(6). In distributing such funds, the Secretary shall not be limited by the restrictions contained within 16 V.S.A. § 2969(c) and (d).

Sec. E.502.1 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173, Sec. 16 is amended to read:

Sec. 16. **RULEMAKING**

The Agency of Education shall recommend to the State Board proposed rules ~~that are necessary~~ to implement this act and, on or before ~~November~~ August 1, 2019 2020, the State Board of Education shall ~~adopt~~ initiate rules that are necessary to implement this act. The State Board and the Agency of Education shall consult with the Census-based Funding Advisory Group established under Sec. 9 of this act in developing the State Board rules. The State Board rules shall include rules that establish processes for reporting, monitoring, and evaluation designed to ensure:

(1) the achievement of the goal under this act of enhancing the effectiveness, availability, and equity of services provided to all students who require additional support in Vermont's school districts; and

(2) that supervisory unions are complying with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. chapter 33.

Sec. E.502.2 2018 Acts and Resolves No. 173, Sec. 23 is amended to read:

Sec. 23. EFFECTIVE DATES

* * *

(b) Sec. 5 (16 V.S.A. chapter 101) shall take effect on July 1, ~~2020~~ 2021.

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Sec. E.503 Education – state-placed students

(a) The Independence Place Program of the Lund Family Center shall be considered a 24-hour residential program for the purposes of reimbursement of education costs.

(b) Education services provided to long-term residents at Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center shall be eligible for reimbursement.

Sec. E.504.1 [Deleted.]

Sec. E.504.2 Education – flexible pathways

(a) Of this appropriation, \$3,026,500 from the Education Fund shall be distributed to school districts for reimbursement of high school completion services pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 943(c). Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(b), of this Education Fund appropriation, the amount of:

(1) \$850,000 is available for dual enrollment programs and the amount of \$42,500 is available for need-based stipends pursuant to Sec. E.605.2(a) of this act;

(2) \$100,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative at the River Valley Technical Center School District;

(3) \$200,000 is available for secondary school reform grants; and

(4) \$450,000 is available for the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology and \$2,148,000 for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946.

(b) Of this appropriation, \$850,000 from general funds is available for dual enrollment programs and the amount of \$42,500 from the General Fund is available for need-based stipends pursuant to Sec. E.605.2(a) of this act.

Sec. E.505 INTERSTATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$25,000 of the funds appropriated in Sec. B.505 of this act shall be granted to the Stamford school district for continued study of the formation of an interstate school district that would combine the Stamford school district with the Clarksburg, Massachusetts school district.

Sec. E.507 SMALL SCHOOLS GRANTS, PRESERVING ELIGIBILITY;
PROHIBITING DUPLICATE GRANTS

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 4015 to the contrary, a district shall be eligible for a small schools grant under that section if:

(1) two or more school districts voluntarily merged to form a unified union school district that will become operational on July 1, 2019;

(2) one or more of these merging school districts was an "eligible school district" as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 4015, as in effect on June 30, 2019, that received a small schools support grant under that section in fiscal year 2019;
and

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(3) the unified union school district is not eligible for incentives under 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, or 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, each as amended.

(b) In determining whether a school district is an eligible school district under 16 V.S.A. § 4015(a)(1)(B)(ii)(III), under which the State Board considers a school's student-to-staff ratio in assessing its operational efficiency, the State Board shall not count a person who works in a school as a member of that school's staff if:

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(1) the person is employed by the supervisory union for the school district or by another member school district;

(2) the member school districts of the supervisory union have a reciprocity agreement under which they allow resident students of one member school district to attend a school in another member school district;

(3) a student who is a resident of a member school district attends the school in another member school district under the reciprocity agreement for the purpose of receiving special education services; and

(4) the person is working in the school in the other member school district to support the student receiving special education services.

(c) A union school district that receives a merger support grant pursuant to 2010 Acts and Resolves No. 153, 2012 Acts and Resolves No. 156, or 2015 Acts and Resolves No. 46, each as amended, shall not be eligible also to receive a small schools grant under this section; provided, however, that if a

union school district that received a merger support grant is enlarged to include a district that received a small school grant in fiscal year 2019 (the “new member”) and the operational date of the union district as enlarged by the new member is July 1, 2019, then the union school district may apply for a small school grant pursuant to the provisions of 16 V.S.A. § 4015 in connection with any school located within the new member.

Sec. E.514 State teachers’ retirement system

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(g)(2), the annual contribution to the State Teachers’ Retirement System (STRS) shall be \$126,197,389 of which \$120,247,389 shall be the State’s contribution and \$5,950,000 shall be contributed from local school systems or educational entities pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 1944c.

(b) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944(c)(2), of the annual contribution, \$7,116,765 is the “normal contribution,” and \$119,080,624 is the “accrued liability contribution.”

Sec. E.515 Retired teachers’ health care and medical benefits

(a) In accordance with 16 V.S.A. § 1944b(b)(2), \$31,067,652 will be contributed to the Retired Teachers’ Health and Medical Benefits Fund.

Sec. E.515.1 PREFUNDING OF THE RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH
CARE AND MEDICAL BENEFITS FUND

(a) Of the amount appropriated in Sec. B.515 of this act, \$2,400,000 is intended to prefund the Retired Teachers' Health and Medical Benefits Fund at the earliest possible date.

* * * HIGHER EDUCATION * * *

Sec. E.600 University of Vermont

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to pay one-twelfth of this appropriation to the University of Vermont on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

(b) Of this appropriation, \$380,326 shall be transferred to EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) for the purpose of complying with State matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or both.

(c) If Global Commitment Fund monies are unavailable, the total grant funding for the University of Vermont shall be maintained through the General Fund or other State funding sources.

(d) The University of Vermont shall use the Global Commitment funds appropriated in this section to support Vermont physician training. The University of Vermont prepares students, both Vermonters and out-of-state, and awards approximately 100 medical degrees annually. Graduates of this program, currently representing a significant number of physicians practicing

in Vermont, deliver high-quality health care services to Medicaid beneficiaries and to uninsured or underinsured persons, or both, in Vermont and across the nation.

Sec. E.602 Vermont state colleges

(a) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall issue warrants to pay one-twelfth of this appropriation to the Vermont State Colleges on or about the 15th day of each calendar month of the year.

(b) Of this appropriation, \$427,898 shall be transferred to the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center for the purpose of complying with State matching fund requirements necessary for the receipt of available federal or private funds, or both.

Sec. E.602.1 VERMONT STATE COLLEGES TUITION

(a) Of the amount appropriated in Sec. B.602 of this act, \$2,500,000 is intended to mitigate tuition increases for one year.

Sec. E.603 Vermont state colleges – allied health

(a) If Global Commitment fund monies are unavailable, the total grant funding for the Vermont State Colleges shall be maintained through the General Fund or other State funding sources.

(b) The Vermont State Colleges shall use the Global Commitment funds appropriated in this section to support the dental hygiene, respiratory therapy, and nursing programs which graduate approximately 315 health care providers

annually. These graduates deliver direct, high-quality health care services to Medicaid beneficiaries or uninsured or underinsured persons, or both.

Sec. E.603.1 UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND VERMONT STATE
COLLEGES SYSTEM EFFICIENCIES AND IMPROVED
RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES

(a) The University of Vermont (UVM) and the Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS) shall:

(1) collaborate to identify cost efficiencies that would benefit both institutions. Such efficiencies may include costs related to employee health care benefits, purchasing, and the processing of accounts payable, accounts receivable, and payroll; and

(2) collaborate to implement strategies to increase retention and graduation rates at the University of Vermont and each of the colleges in the VSCS.

(b) UVM and the VSCS shall submit an interim report to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and the Senate and House Committees on Education on or before October 15, 2019. This report shall include:

(1) preliminary recommendations for efficiencies that should be pursued;

(2) the estimated amount of annual savings;

(3) any one-time funds needed to implement the efficiencies;

(4) any further efficiencies that should be explored; and

(5) preliminary recommendations regarding strategies to increase retention and graduation rates.

(c) If the interim report is not submitted or when submitted does not include any recommendations pursuant to subdivisions (b)(1) and (b)(5) of this section, a new working group shall immediately be created as defined in Sec. E.603.2 of this act.

Sec. E.603.2 UVM AND VSCS EFFICIENCIES AND IMPROVED
RETENTION AND GRADUATION RATES
WORKING GROUP

(a) In the event that the provisions of Sec. E.603.1 of this act do not occur there shall be established a UVM and VSCS Efficiencies and Improved Retention and Graduation Rates Working Group as follows:

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall consist of seven members as follows:

(1) two members of the Senate, one each from the Committees on Appropriations and Education, appointed by the Committee on Committees;

(2) two members of the House, one each from the Committees on Appropriations and Education, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Commissioner of Finance and Management or designee;

(4) one person representing the University of Vermont, selected by the President of the University; and

(5) one person representing the Vermont State Colleges System, selected by the Chancellor.

(c) Meetings. The Working Group may meet up to four times. For attending a meeting of the Working Group when he or she is not receiving compensation as a member of the General Assembly, a member of the Working Group who is a member of the General Assembly shall be entitled to the same per diem compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided members of standing committees under 2 V.S.A. § 406.

(d) Report. The Working Group shall submit a report to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and the Senate and House Committees on Education on or before December 15, 2019. This report shall include:

- (1) recommendations for efficiencies that should be pursued;
- (2) the estimated amount of annual savings;
- (3) any one-time funds needed to implement the efficiencies;
- (4) any further efficiencies that should be explored; and
- (5) recommendations regarding strategies to increase retention and graduation rates.

Sec. E.605 Vermont student assistance corporation

(a) Of this appropriation, \$25,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation to be deposited into the Trust Fund established in 16 V.S.A. § 2845.

(b) Of this appropriation, not more than \$200,000 may be used by the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation for a student aspirational pilot initiative to serve one or more high schools.

(c) Of the appropriated amount remaining after accounting for subsections (a) and (b) of this section, not less than 93 percent of this appropriation shall be used for direct student aid.

Sec. E.605.1 [Deleted.]

Sec. E.605.2 NEED-BASED STIPEND FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT AND
EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS

(a) The sum of \$85,000 shall be transferred to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) from Sec. E.504.2(a)(1) and (b) of this act (flexible pathways funds appropriated for need-based stipend purposes) to fund a flat-rate, need-based stipend or voucher program for financially needy students enrolled in a dual enrollment course pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 944 or in early college pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 946 to be used for the purchase of books, cost of transportation, and payment of fees. VSAC shall establish the criteria for program eligibility. Funds shall be granted to eligible students on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted.

(b) VSAC shall report on the program to the House Committees on Appropriations and on Commerce and Economic Development and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs on or before January 15, 2020.

* * * EFFECTIVE DATES * * *

Sec. G.100 EFFECTIVE DATES

(a) This section and Secs. C.100 (fiscal year 2019 one-time appropriations), C.101 (fiscal year 2019 one-time transfer), C.102 (fiscal year 2019 fund transfers, reversions and reserves), C.102.1 (fiscal year 2019 contingent transfers and appropriations), C.102.2 (fiscal year 2019 Secretary of State fund balance), C.103 (fiscal year Tobacco Litigation Settlement Fund transfer and yearend balance), C.104-C.107 (fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments; Legislative Branch), C.108-C.109 (fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments, Agency of Education), C.110-C.113 (fiscal year 2019 budget adjustments, teachers' retirement system and health and medical benefits), C.114 (Green Mountain Secure Retirement Plan), C.116 (fiscal year 2019 budget adjustment, one-time appropriations), C.117 (loan authorization and funding source), E.112 (energy efficiency; State buildings and facilities), E.127-E.127.2 (Joint Fiscal Committee, grants acceptance language), E.233.1 (Public Service transfer), E.301.2 (mental health and substance use disorder workforce), E.312.1 (report; promotion of immunization), E.318.2 (early childcare and development program cessation), E.318.4 (Bright Futures Information System), E.318.5 (child care workforce grants, continuing education), E.318.6 (child care curriculum), E.329 (transfer of nursing home licensed beds; review process), E.329.1 (18 V.S.A. § 9434(a); licensed nursing home beds exception) E.507 (small schools grant, preserving eligibility, prohibiting duplicate grants), and



E.711–E.711.1 (Bennington water line funding and extension), shall take effect upon passage.

(b) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, Sec. C.115 (special fund appropriation for tax computer systems) shall take effect on passage and shall apply retroactively to January 1, 2019.

(c) Sec. E.308.1 (personal needs allowance reset) shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

(d) Sec. E.329.2 (18 V.S.A. § 9434(a); repeal of licensed nursing home beds exception) shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(e) All remaining sections shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

Date Governor signed bill: June 18, 2019