



FY
22

Testimony before House Commerce and Economic Development Committee

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VSAC's FY22 request

These investments in Vermont's support to students and adults would result in an FY2022 base appropriation to VSAC of **\$22,478,588**.

This request builds on our FY21 appropriation and includes:

- \$1,900,000 for 802 Opportunity (new)
- \$500,000 for Advancement Grant (renew)
- \$300,000 for Aspirations Program (increased funding and new appropriation)

In addition, we request level funding of \$85,000 for the Dual Enrollment Stipend Program.

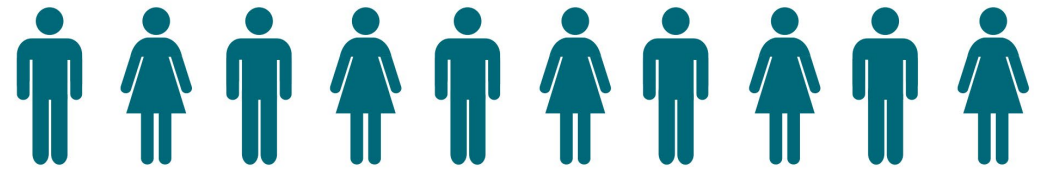
VERMONT's Education Pipeline

Our Class of 2012 Senior Survey findings show that we are losing human capital at every point along the path to higher education.

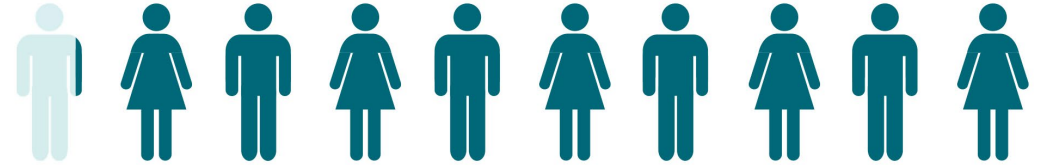
Four years after graduating from high school, 3.4 out of 10 Vermont students have earned a two- or four-year degree.

These numbers, however, vary considerably when we consider gender, first-generation status, academic preparation and geographic region.

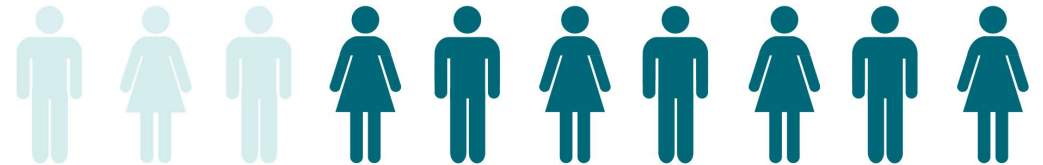
Class of 2012
at high school
graduation



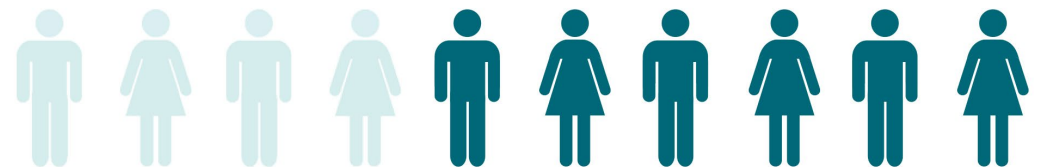
Students who at
some point thought
they would enroll in
the fall of 2012



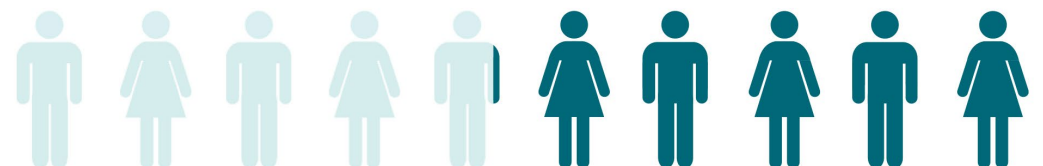
High school
graduates who
planned to enroll
in the fall of 2012



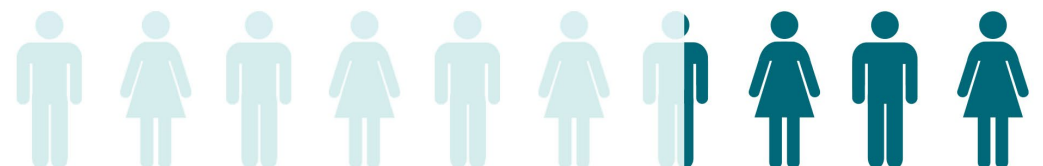
High school
graduates who
enrolled at a 2-
or 4-yr college



First-year college
students who
enrolled for a
second year

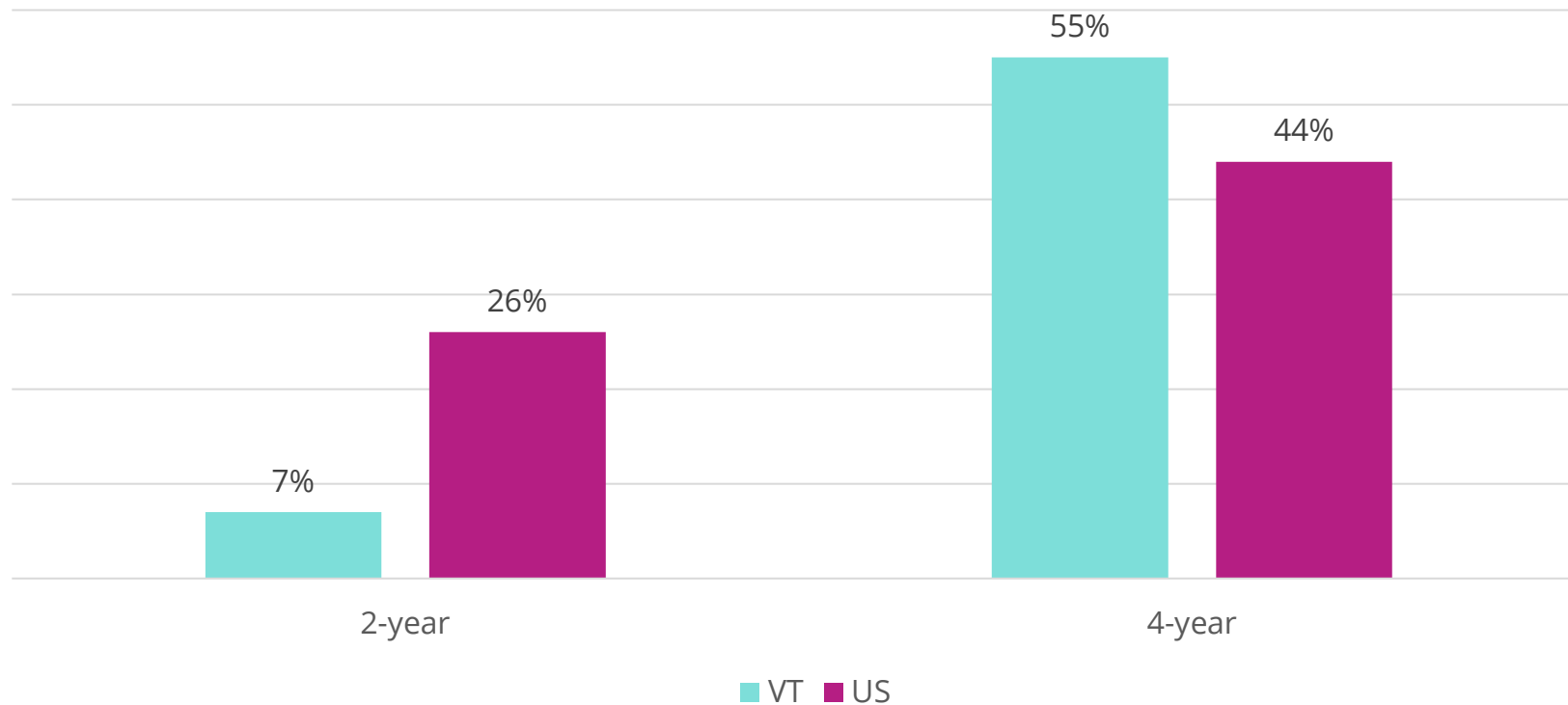


Fall 2012 enrollees
who obtained an
associate or
bachelor's degree
in 4 years



Vermont students significantly less likely to begin at two-year schools

Percentage of Class of 2018 high school graduates enrolled at two- and four-year colleges in VT and the U.S.



802Opportunity: Free Tuition at CCV

VSAC requests \$1.9 million to create a free tuition program, for students with family income of \$50,000 or less

Impact: 30% of Vermont families have incomes of \$50K or less

802Opportunity will open doors for students seeking:

- professional certificate programs,
- an associate degree, and
- to transfer to four-year degree programs.

Advancement Grants

In FY 2020, 1,550 adult students used Advancement grants to obtain:

- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Certification as childcare providers
- Driver's education
- College Level courses (71% at CCV)

Or pursue occupations such as:

- Culinary arts
- Cosmetology
- LNAs
- Dental Assistants
- Construction workers
- Linemen

What does \$500,000 offer for opportunities to adult learners?

- Allows 250 more adults to access the program
- Allows providers to continue to offer training programs into the spring term and early summer

Vermont Advancement Grant

The average Advancement Grant recipient is:

35
YEARS OLD



FEMALE



HOUSEHOLD
OF TWO



\$21,000

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME



Adult Vermonters increasingly turn to the Advancement Grant to grow and develop new skills.

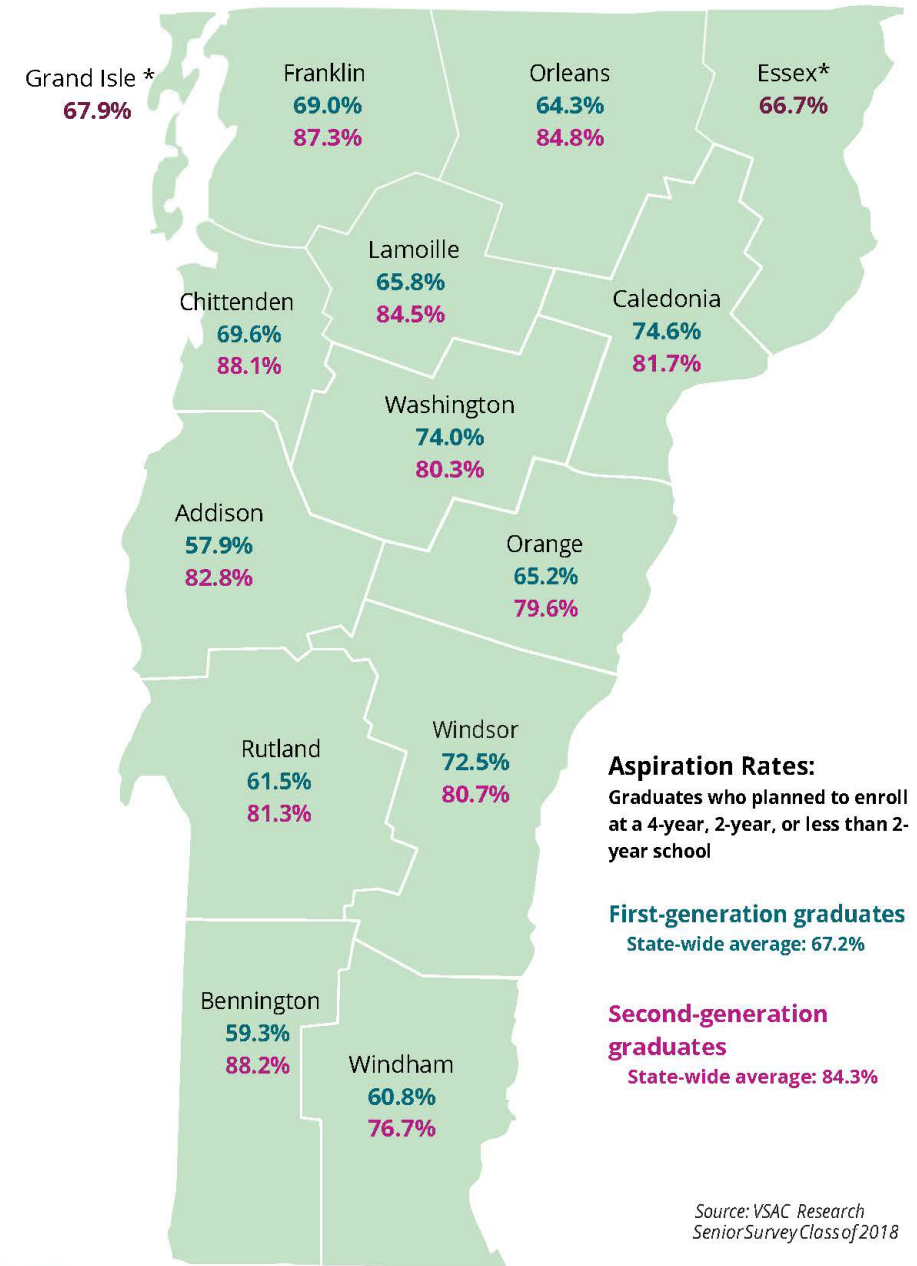
In recognition, the Vermont Legislature approved additional one-time funding in the program for FY20.

Aspiration Partnerships

Aspiration Partnerships work with schools to build their capacity to graduate every student with a plan for their future.

In FY20, over 1,000 middle and high school students were served by the project at the following schools:

- Hazen Union High School
- Twinfield Union School
- Spaulding High School
- Central Vermont Career Center



Source: VSAC Research
Senior Survey Class of 2018

*Small sample size

State Workforce Development Scholarships

- Career and Technical Education Adult Training Scholarship
- Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program
- Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program



Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program

FY21 Appropriation \$1,026,105

- Awarded to-date \$570,064
- Disbursed to-date \$417,855
- 76 Applicants, 61 Guard Member recipients →

FY20 Appropriation \$1,329,150

- Disbursed \$679,907 (Returned \$625,000)
- 92 Applicants, 86 Guard Member recipients

Training programs at 13 schools:	# students
Advanced Welding Institute	1
Castleton University	2
CCV	7
Champlain College	7
Northern Vermont University	3
Norwich University	24
Pro Driver Training	1
Southeast Lineman Training Center	1
St. Michael's College	1
Stafford Technical Center	1
UVM	6
Vermont Flight Academy	1
Vermont Technical College	6

Outcomes of the Nursing Incentive Loan Programs

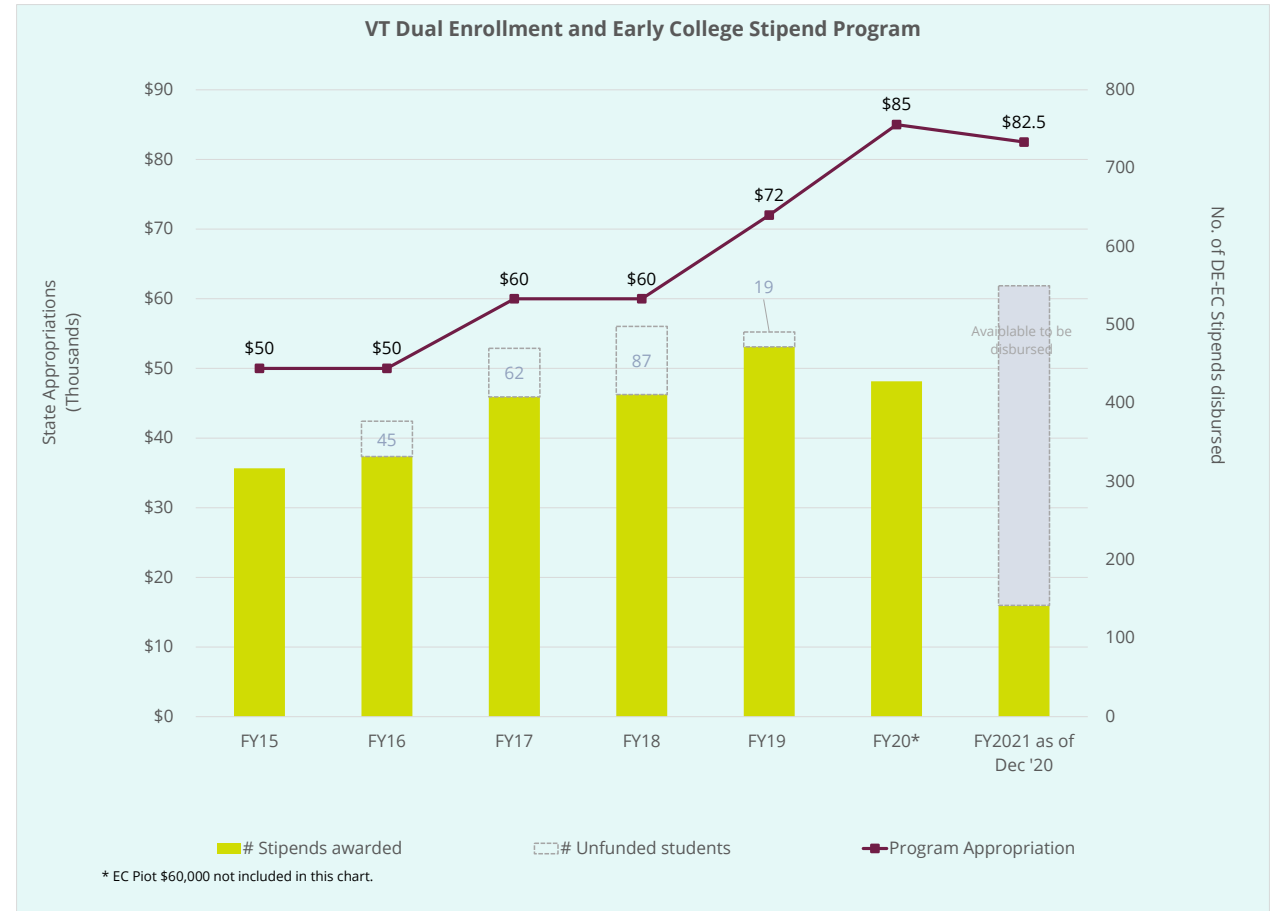
Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program								FY'21
Applicants								138
Scholarships Awarded #								69
Scholarships Awarded \$								\$207,000
Scholarships Paid in Service								TBD
Scholarships Reverting to a Loan								TBD
Vermont State Nursing Incentive Loan Program	FY'15	FY'16	FY'17	FY'18	FY'19	FY'20	FY'21	FY'21
Applicants	107	107	117	114	110	127	127	127
Scholarships Awarded #	12	12	8	5	7	6	5	5
Scholarships Awarded \$	\$70,000	\$127,842	\$60,000	\$46,833	\$81,000	\$50,000	\$38,000	\$38,000
Scholarships Paid in Service	8	7	6	2	5	1	TBD	TBD
Scholarships Reverting to a Loan	0	0	0	1	0	1	TBD	TBD

Dual Enrollment & Early College Stipend

- A need-based stipend for high school juniors and seniors who enroll in early college or on-campus dual enrollment classes.
- Awards \$150 to cover the expenses of books, fees, and/or transportation
- This program's FY21 appropriation was reduced to \$82,500.

To date:

- Dual enrollment stipend awards are holding steady compared to FY20.
- Early college stipends are down by 33% over the previous year, probably related to COVID-19.





Appendix A

VSAC Services

Vermont State Grant programs

In the 2019-2020 academic year (FY 2020), VSAC awarded 11,806 need-based education grants to students attending school full- or part-time or enrolled in nondegree courses of study.

VSAC Appropriation FY21: \$19,978,588

Unexpected expenses can derail even the most dedicated of students.

In the current fiscal year to date, VSAC has awarded 219 grants totaling \$87,489 in emergency funds to students at risk of dropping out of school.

A small grant of \$400 or less helps address unexpected expenses such as:

1. Computer issues
2. Car repair/tires
3. Food insecurity
4. Help with housing deposits

VT Grant Program	FY20 Grant Awards
Full-time	7,493
Part-time	2,609
Advancement	1,550
VT Emergency Microgrant	154

VSAC Career and Education Outreach Programs

Adult-based and School-based services provided through Federally-funded Grant Programs:

- Educational Opportunity Center
- GEAR UP
- Talent Search

