

FY 23

Testimony before House Commerce and Economic Development Committee

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Vermont Student Assistance Corporation



#Here4VTStudents

- Administers VT529, Vermont's 529 college savings plan, with 25,642 accounts worth \$573.4 million
- Provides career and education counseling to 6,365 students of all ages
- Provides financial aid and forms nights, developing virtual events
- Administers the Vermont State Grant program for low-income Vermonters, including the Vermont Emergency Microgrant
- Administers 802Opportunity and Green Mountain Grad grants
- Administers 145 scholarship programs worth \$7.5 million annually just for Vermonters
- Provides \$36.1 million in student and parent loans to help cover the cost of education and training, plus provides comprehensive loan counseling to borrowers

Vermont Advancement Grant

The average Advancement Grant recipient is:







\$21,904

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME



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



Vermont Advancement Grant

Helping adults advance in Vermont's workforce

COVID-19 affected the employment, education and training landscape in innumerable ways.

Despite the historic disruptions in daily living, Vermonters used their Advancement Grant:

To enter the trades, such as:

- construction workers
- linemen
- cosmetologists
- culinary arts

As well as:

- Earn CDL licenses
- Obtain certification as childcare providers
- Enter healthcare professions such as LNAs and dental assistants



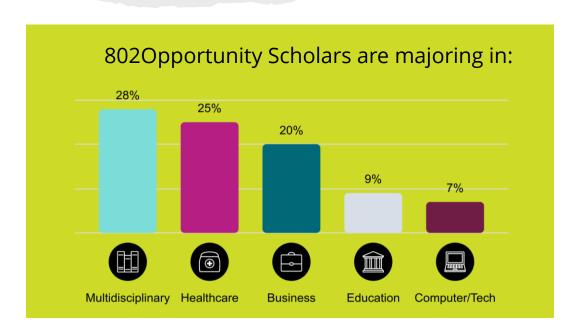
State Workforce Development Scholarships

- 802 Opportunity Scholarship
- Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program
- Career and Technical Education Adult Training Scholarship





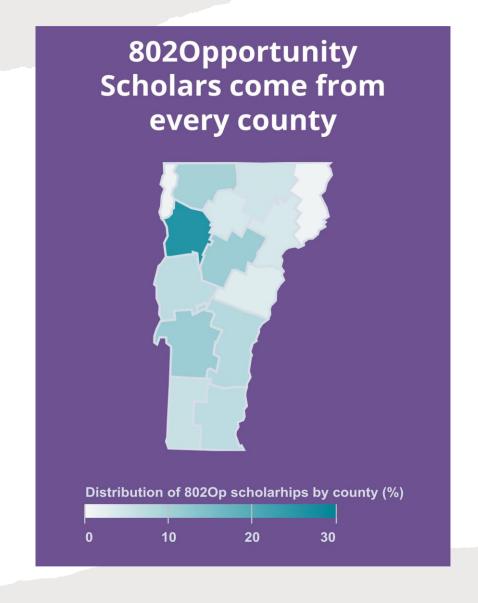




The average 802Opportunity scholar is an adult, female student enrolled part-time and pursuing an associate's degree.

Median age: 28 years old

Median Income: \$31,500



802Opportunity: Free Tuition at CCV

Governor's Budget:

 \$1.5 million to increase the eligibility cut-off for students with family income from \$50,000 to \$75,000

Impact: 44% of Vermont families have incomes of \$75K or less



Increasing Access to Higher Education

802Opportunity pays for up to two years of free tuition to the Community College of Vermont (CCV). Any Vermonter with a family Adjusted Gross Income of less than \$50K per year can qualify.

802Opportunity opens doors for CCV students seeking:

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

FY2022 (to date) 802Opportunity at-a-glance:

- Leverages federal and state grants
- Nearly 1,750 students attended CCV tuition-free



Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program

Students pursuing nursing degree can obtain \$6,000/year to help offset educational costs with a one-year work obligation

FY '22 Institution	Number of Recipients
Castleton	7
Norwich	11
UVM	13
VTC	49
Out of State	18
Total	98

FY '22 Program	Number of Recipients
LPN's	25
Associate's Degree	4
RN's	31
BA's	38
Total	98



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Vermont Nursing Workforce Incentive Loan Program

Governor's recommendation:

 \$3,000,000 to support the existing nursing scholarship program administered by VDH in coordination with VSAC

Impact:

- Increase the size of annual award to get closer to covering full tuition at Vermont public institutions
- Increase the number of nurses committing to work in Vermont following licensure



Career and Technical Education Adult Training Scholarship

Created in 2021 to provide funds to eligible students enrolled in a CTE course to enhance employability.

Eligibility:

- Vermont resident
- Not currently enrolled in traditional high school
- Enroll in CTE course

Award maximum \$1,000

- Tuition and Mandatory fees
- Uniforms
- Tools
- Books
- Supplies





CTE Scholarship for Adult Students

Awards to Date:

Tech Center	# of Awards	\$ of Awards
Applied Tech Ctr at St. Johnsbury	11	\$10,400
Burlington Tech Center	1	\$1,000
Center for Technology-Essex	1	\$300
Cold Hollow Career Center	3	\$3,000
Green Mountain Tec & Career Ctr	1	\$1,000
Hannaford Career Center	3	\$3,000
Lyndon Institute	1	\$1,000
Maple Run Unified School District	3	\$2,840
North Country Career Center	18	\$15,670
River Bend Career & Tech Ctr	1	\$1,000
River Valley Technical Center	2	\$2,000
Southwest VT Regional Tech	3	\$2,799
Stafford Technical Center	15	\$15,000
Windham Regional Career Ctr	2	\$2,000
Totals	65	\$61,009

Vermont Trades Scholarship Program and Vermont Trades Loan Repayment Program

Governor's recommendation:

- \$3,000,000 for scholarships for trades students
- \$500,000 for loan repayment for trades professionals

Impacted careers include:

- CDL drivers
- Plumbers
- Welders
- Builders/Construction
- Nursing





Appendix A

VSAC Services

Green Mountain Grad:

The Green Mountain Grad Program was established by the VT Legislature in 2021 to provide every high school graduate from the Vermont high school Classes of 2020 and 2021 with a tuition-free course at any one of the Vermont State Colleges.

Green Mtn Grad at-a-glance (to date):

- Over \$1.8M disbursed through the fall of 2021
- 1,462 recent high school grads awarded



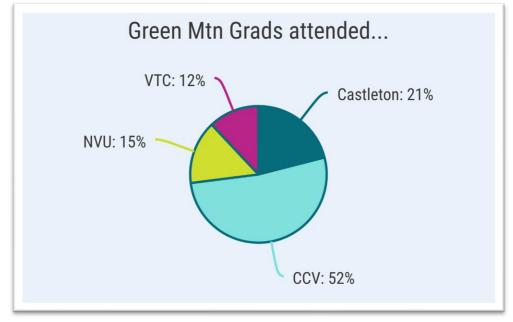


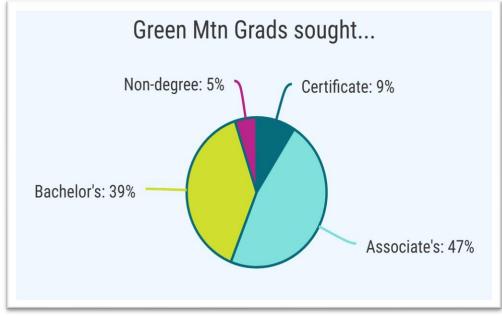


In the Fall of 2021:

Green Mtn Grads enrolled in academic programs such as:

- * Health Professions & Health Sciences 17%
- * Multidisciplinary Studies 15%
- * Business Management and Marketing 14%
- * Education 9%





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.

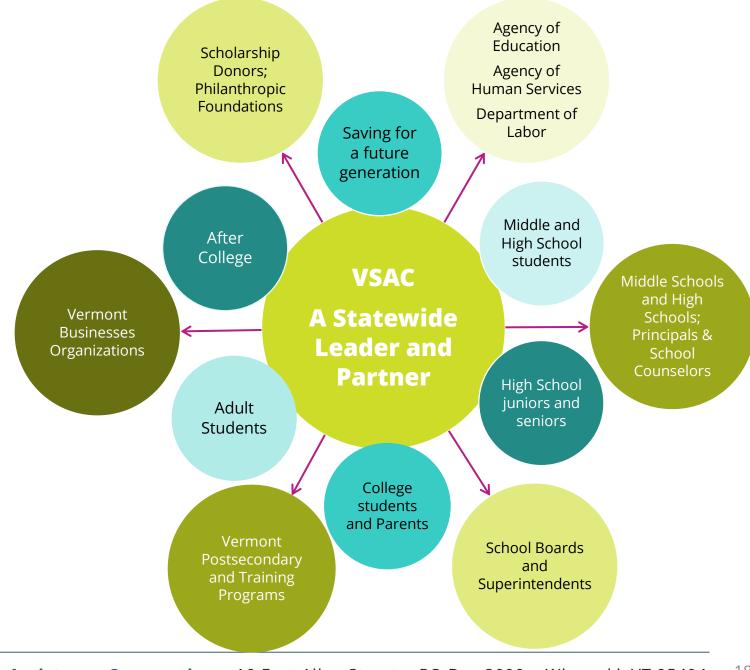
These numbers, however, vary considerably when we consider gender, first-generation status, academic preparation and geographic region.







Creating opportunities
for all Vermont
students,
but especially for
those
—of any age—
who believe that
the doors to
education and training
are closed to them.





Pathways to Postsecondary Education and Training

PreK-6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	Postsecondary
VHEIP — VT's 529			23,786 accour	nts worth \$447.5M			
college savings plan	GEAR UP —		2,709	students			GEAR UP scholarships
	Talent Search ———	988 students					922 scholarships worth \$849,325
			College planning e-mail communications to		11,694		VT grants from VSAC
			students and parents	College & Career 518	3 in-person and 8,000+ views of recorded sessions		11,806 awards
				Pathways	Managing College Costs nights and/or Forms nights	1,290 attendees	VSAC's Advantage Loans \$50.1M
					FAFSA completion		CLUDE 162 first year
					Dual enrollment 276 stipends worth \$41,400		GUIDE 163 first-year students
ASPIRATION INITIATIVES				stipends	Early college stipends →	152 stipends worth \$79,600	
	1,000 students served		Introduction to College - & Career Studies			Career and financial aid assistance at CCV sites	
	Twinfield ————————————————————————————————————						-
	Spaulding —					,	
	Central VT Career Ctr —					-	
							Educational Opportunity Centers for adult learners 1,670 adult learners serve

Customer Calls to Communicate Trouble Making Their Loan Payment

Call begins - ID verification -confirm speaking with borrower and not a 3rd party company trying to act on behalf of borrower – obtain SSN or account #, full name, address, phone #s. email Is this a short-term

situation where you need only a temporary option, or do you anticipate this amount to be unmanageable moving forward?

Short

-term

Are you working?

No

Long-

term

Yes

Evaluate eligibility for IDR (federal, non-parent loans)

• What is your family size?

No

- What was your AGI from your most recent Federal Income Tax Return (within the last 2 years)? Did you file single or joint?
- Does the AGI reflect your current income situation - if not, obtain current income for borrower (and spouse if applicable)
- Do you have outside federal education debt with other lenders?

If they qualify for IDR, counsel on the plan, including their estimated PFH and Permanent-Standard amounts, review of the forgiveness component, explanation of the annual renewal, and how to apply (including income docs required).

Provide estimates for their federal loans if they switched to one of the following:

- Graduated Repayment
- Extended Repayment*
- Graduated Extended Repayment*

Yes

*If they have a current principal balance greater than or equal to \$30,000

Also discuss consolidation to potentially extend term, lower monthly payments, and possibly give additional repayment options.

Counsel on Economic

Hardship (assuming

eligibility remains) for

federal loans – this

includes how to apply,

how long the option is

for, and what happens

to their interest – if

they have private

loans, assess potential

for lender

discretionary options

(no-pay or reduced-

pay forbearance).

If they've indicated they are working

Where do you work?

Counsel on Public Services Forgiveness and/or non-PSLF Forgiveness Programs (e.g. Teacher Loan Forgiveness) if they indicate they are employed in a job that is eligible for forgiveness and they have federal loans.

> Where do you work?

What is the AGI from your most recent Do you work more or less FITR? What is your GMI? What is your than 30 hours per week? family size? Calculate eligibility for More Economic Hardship Deferment. Do they qualify based on calculations? Less

No

No

Are you registered & seeking FT employment in anv field/ salary **OR** receiving unemployment benefits?

Yes

Counsel on Unemployment Deferment (assuming eligibility remains) for federal loans - this includes how to apply, how long the option is for, and what happens to their interest - if they have private loans assess potential for lender discretionary options (no-pay or reduced pay forbearance).

Do you receive any types of public assistance?

Yes

Counsel on Economic Hardship Deferment (assuming eligibility remains) for federal loans – this includes how to apply, how long the option is for, and what happens to their interest – if they have private loans, assess potential for lender discretionary options (no-pay or reducedpay forbearance).

Do you receive any taxable income? If yes, what is your GMI? What is your MLP for any federal loans with other lenders? Calculate eligibility for Excess Debt Burden Mandatory Forbearance (MLP must be greater than or equal to 20% GMI). Do they qualify for EDB MFA

If IDR is

not an

option

based on calculations?

No

If they don't qualify for entitlements on federal loans, assess eligibility for a lender discretionary option (such as a No-Pay Forbearance) – this includes a review of past forbearance use -

to determine whether a forbearance can be offered.

Yes

Counsel on EDB MFA (assuming eligibility remains) for federal loans – this includes how to apply, how long the option is for, and what happens to their interest – if they have private loans, assess potential for lender discretionary options (no-pay or reduced-pay forbearance.

Improving education outcomes in Vermont

The third report on postsecondary outcomes of Vermont's high school Class of 2012.

Reports findings on:

- Degree completion within four years among students who enrolled in the fall of 2012, at 4-year institutions as full-time students;
- Degree attainment of the entire cohort within four years.



Postsecondary Enrollment & Completion within Four Years of Graduation

Executive Summary

In 2014, VSAC issued a report on the aspirations of the Vermont High School Class of 2012. The following year, 2015, VSAC issued a report on the postsecondary enrollment of the Class of 2012. This third report looks at the Class of 2012 four years after high school graduation and describes the percentage of graduates who enrolled in postsecondary education, along with the percentage who attained a degree within four years. This report also discusses some of the factors associated with the timely completion of a degree. The study provides some encouraging data about the four-year graduation rates of matriculated members of the class as a whole. However, the data also reveals wide variation in the success rates between students from different socioeconomic groups and between students attending different institutions of higher education.

This report examines the on-time completion rates of Vermont high school graduates who began their postsecondary education full-time at a four-year school. Vermont high school students enroll immediately in four-year institutions at a higher rate than the