



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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February 19, 2021

To: House Committee on Appropriations
From: House Committee on Education
Re: FY22 Budget Recommendations on Education

After reviewing relevant sections of Governor Scott's proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2022, the House Committee on Education makes the following recommendations:

POST-SECONDARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Vermont State Colleges: We support **fully funding the VSC FY22 budget request**, which includes \$30.5 million for the historical base appropriation and an additional \$51 million to cover the structural deficit (\$25 million), improved capacity and affordability (\$17.5 million) and transformation investments (\$8 million). After the use of other funding sources, including the midyear FY21 budget adjustment and \$5 million in austerity measures, the proposed allocation totals \$67.4 million.

University of Vermont: We support **fully funding the UVM FY22 budget request**, which includes the Governor's recommended base funding of \$42,509,093 plus an additional \$1 million addition to the base appropriation for the ongoing work of the newly established Office of Engagement.

Vermont Student Assistance Corporation: We support **fully funding the VSAC FY22 budget request**, which includes the Governor's recommended base funding of \$20,078,588. We agree with the VSAC request to build on this base appropriation by including \$1,900,000 for 802Opportunity (new), \$500,000 for Advancement Grant (renew), and \$300,000 for Aspirations Program (increased funding and new appropriation). This would result in an FY22 base appropriation of \$22,478,588.

New England Higher Education Compact: We support **fully funding** this initiative at the Governor's recommended level-funded amount of \$84,000.

Advance Vermont: We support **fully funding Advance Vermont's new FY22 budget request** (presented to the Education Committee on [2.17.2021](#)) of \$350,000 to build state capacity to increase state attainment through a public-private partnership with Advance Vermont (\$250,000) and support the MyFutureVT initiative as part of COVID-19 recovery (\$100,000). MyFutureVT is a one-stop web portal for education and career resources, with detailed information on education and training programs for Vermont's high-pay, high-demand careers. This work advances credential transparency, with a goal of compiling all postsecondary credentials available in Vermont for the benefit of prospective students, workers, employers, education and trainer providers, and state leaders.

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Agency of Education proposed budget, General Fund: We support the AOE budget as presented by the administration. This includes the changes in funding for the High School Completion Program (decrease) and Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (increase). Both proposed changes reflect changes in use, according to testimony from the Agency.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. There remain two more proposals recently presented to the House Education Committee that require more testimony and clarity as to whether the requests will be considered in the House or Senate during the budget development phase. However, the HEC wanted the HAC to be aware of them and the possibility of an addendum to this memo next week. These proposals are
 - a. Funding per diem costs for two students to join the Act 1 advisory group (Ethnic and Social Equity Standards Advisory Working Group) and professional development proposed by the group, and
 - b. A childhood nutrition position in the Agency of Education pulled from the vacancy pool to assist schools seeking federal assistance to continue to offer universal meals programs.
2. Committee Bill 21-0782, *an act relating to addressing the needs and conditions of school facilities in the state* currently includes two additional positions at the Agency of Education pulled from the pool. This bill is still under construction but likely to pass out of committee by the end of the week.

Representative Kathryn Webb
Chair, House Committee on Education