

## Vermont



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## Vermont

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## Benefits to Vermont of NEBHE’s Regional Student Program, Tuition Break

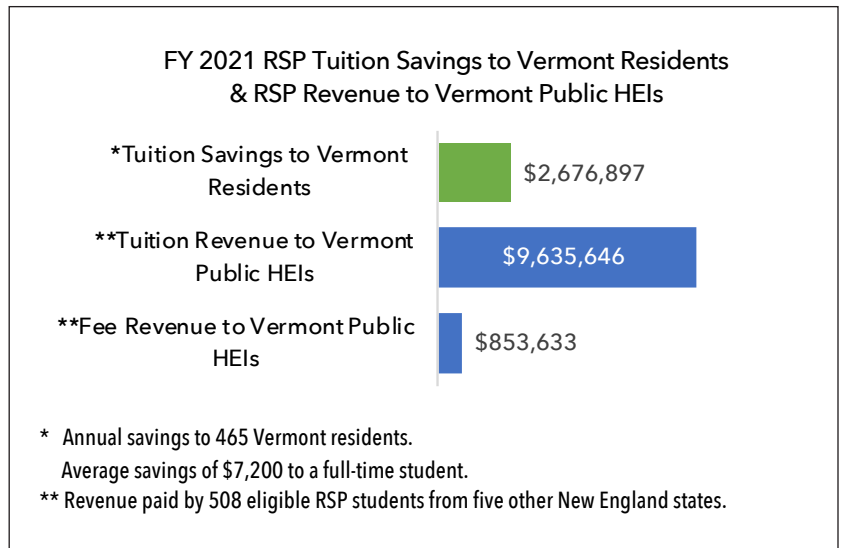
The New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE), agency of the federally authorized, state-created Compact, provides resource-sharing and cost-saving programs for the six New England states.

- NEBHE’s longest-standing program, the Regional Student Program (RSP) Tuition Break, has delivered more than \$1 billion in college tuition savings to New England students and families since 1958.
- The region’s public colleges and universities collaborate to offer specialized academic programs at reduced tuition, providing affordable access to eligible out-of-state residents within the region.
- Tuition Break is a strategic enrollment management tool for participating public higher education institutions, and helps prepare the region’s future workforce in specialized and high-demand fields.

NEW ENGLAND BOARD of HIGHER EDUCATION



- Vermont residents save millions of dollars in tuition while having access to more than 1,500 tuition-discounted degree programs at public colleges and universities in the five other New England states—including specialized fields of study not offered by Vermont public colleges and universities.
- Vermont public institutions receive millions of dollars in tuition revenue from eligible RSP students, who are residents of the other five New England states.



## NEBHE State Assessment and Return on Investment (ROI)

NEBHE state assessments support operations of the RSP Tuition Break, including:

- Managing participation of more than 9,000 annual participating students
- Engaging 80 public colleges and universities in offering eligible programs and enrollment data collection
- Annual certification of more than 2,000 undergraduate and graduate programs
- Promotion of the public colleges and universities and eligible program offerings through extensive outreach and communications, including to school counselors, legislators, students and families.

ROI for the RSP Tuition Break in FY 2021	
Vermont’s assessment to NEBHE.....	\$84,000
ROI: RSP tuition savings.....	32-to-1
ROI: RSP tuition savings + revenue .....	147-to-1



## Benefit to the Vermont Public Colleges and Universities of Participation in NEBHE's Regional Student Program (RSP) Tuition Break: FY 2021

Students from the other five New England states, who were eligible through NEBHE's program, paid an estimated \$9.6 million in tuition revenue and \$854,000 in fee revenue in FY 2021 while enrolled at Vermont public higher education institutions.

<b>VERMONT Institutions</b>	<b>Tuition</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
Community College of Vermont	\$248,640	\$3,700	\$252,340	37.0	76
Castleton University	\$372,960	\$35,175	\$408,135	21.0	21
Northern Vermont University	\$2,320,780	\$217,437	\$2,538,217	121.0	124
Vermont Technical College	\$1,919,916	\$153,033	\$2,072,949	87.0	117
<b>Vermont State College System TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,862,296</b>	<b>\$409,345</b>	<b>\$5,271,641</b>	<b>266.0</b>	<b>338</b>
University of Vermont (Undergraduate)	\$4,452,067	\$414,384	\$4,866,451	155.2	157
University of Vermont (Graduate)	\$321,283	\$29,904	\$351,187	11.2	13
<b>University of Vermont TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,773,350</b>	<b>\$444,288</b>	<b>\$5,217,638</b>	<b>166.4</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>VERMONT TOTALS</b>	<b>\$9,635,646</b>	<b>\$853,633</b>	<b>\$10,489,279</b>	<b>432.4</b>	<b>508</b>

*NOTE: NEBHE analysis of tuition, mandatory fee and enrollment data reported by individual institutions. Annual revenue figures are estimates based on annual rates and full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment for the Fall 2020 semester. RSP students are eligible residents of the other five New England states.*



## Benefit of NEBHE's Regional Student Program (RSP) Tuition Break to Vermont Residents

The New England Board of Higher Education's (NEBHE) Regional Student Program (RSP) Tuition Break enables Vermont residents to save millions of dollars in tuition each year while having access to more than 1,000 tuition-discounted degree programs at public colleges and universities in the five other New England states –including specialized fields of study not offered by Vermont public colleges and universities.

In FY 2021, a total of 465 Vermont residents enrolled under the RSP Tuition Break and saved an estimated \$2.7 million on their annual out-of-state tuition bills. A full-time student saved an average of \$7,200.

### Number of Vermont Residents & Total Tuition Savings by City/Town: 2020-21

Arlington	3	\$20,013	Chester	1	\$8,250	Irasburg	1	\$3,528
Athens	2	\$6,600	Colchester	4	\$30,190	Jamaica	1	\$3,969
Baltimore	1	\$8,250	Concord	3	\$12,714	Lincoln	1	\$612
Barnet	1	\$5,700	Corinth	3	\$15,063	Londonderry	2	\$7,704
Barre	16	\$90,130	Danby	1	\$8,430	Ludlow	3	\$20,910
Barton	1	\$5,010	Danville	3	\$14,210	Lunenburg	5	\$22,326
Bennington	36	\$278,922	Derby	1	\$6,555	Lyndon	6	\$29,394
Benson	1	\$3,000	Dorset	1	\$2,634	Manchester	4	\$30,990
Berlin	1	\$1,588	Dummerston	4	\$12,012	Marlboro	2	\$10,982
Bethel	1	\$5,010	East Montpelier	1	\$5,440	Milton	5	\$26,407
Bloomfield	1	\$2,004	Enosburgh	2	\$14,520	Montpelier	3	\$22,320
Bradford	3	\$12,780	Essex	11	\$76,485	Moretown	1	\$2,004
Brandon	1	\$13,650	Fair Haven	1	\$612	Morristown	2	\$23,130
Brattleboro	24	\$116,791	Fairlee	3	\$8,604	Mount Holly	1	\$3,300
Bridgewater	2	\$23,240	Ferrisburgh	2	\$14,544	Newbury	1	\$8,250
Bridport	1	\$3,089	Grafton	1	\$3,300	Newfane	2	\$15,510
Brighton	2	\$5,622	Grand Isle	1	\$5,440	Newport	3	\$29,516
Bristol	3	\$11,730	Greensboro	1	\$6,585	North Hero	1	\$8,820
Brunswick	1	\$5,010	Groton	1	\$2,004	Northfield	3	\$22,518
Burke	1	\$1,530	Guildhall	1	\$8,820	Norwich	3	\$20,370
Burlington	7	\$32,158	Guilford	7	\$24,091	Plainfield	2	\$18,012
Cabot	1	\$5,316	Halifax	1	\$2,454	Poultney	1	\$5,440
Cambridge	1	\$5,700	Hardwick	5	\$28,294	Pownal	13	\$96,630
Canaan	5	\$22,044	Hartford	14	\$53,044	Proctor	2	\$19,245
Cavendish	2	\$6,600	Hartland	4	\$28,500	Putney	4	\$13,646
Charlotte	1	\$5,700	Hinesburg	2	\$13,832	Randolph	2	\$5,700

Reading..... 1..... \$13,650	Stamford..... 5..... \$36,372	West Windsor..... 1..... \$3,300
Readsboro..... 2..... \$11,334	Starksboro..... 1..... \$14,310	Westfield..... 1..... \$14,380
Richmond..... 4..... \$23,404	Stowe..... 1..... \$5,010	Westford..... 1..... \$6,937
Rochester..... 3..... \$19,140	Strafford..... 1..... \$5,700	Westminster..... 1..... \$2,904
Rockingham..... 11..... \$51,731	Swanton..... 2..... \$11,770	Weston..... 1..... \$2,328
Royalton..... 1..... \$3,300	Thetford..... 4..... \$16,486	Whiting..... 1..... \$9,880
Rutland..... 8..... \$69,406	Topsham..... 1..... \$5,948	Whitingham..... 4..... \$14,821
Ryegate..... 2..... \$11,947	Townshend..... 4..... \$23,040	Williamstown..... 4..... \$25,306
Saint Albans..... 3..... \$23,022	Underhill..... 5..... \$30,695	Williston..... 6..... \$46,603
Saint Johnsbury... 8..... \$28,143	Vergennes..... 5..... \$46,898	Wilmington..... 1..... \$7,260
Shaftsbury..... 7..... \$41,332	Vernon..... 2..... \$10,164	Windsor..... 8..... \$34,605
Sharon..... 1..... \$13,650	Vershire..... 4..... \$28,758	Winhall..... 1..... \$5,440
Shelburne..... 2..... \$22,080	Waitsfield..... 1..... \$5,177	Winooski..... 6..... \$47,983
Sheldon..... 2..... \$16,710	Wardsboro..... 2..... \$12,120	Wolcott..... 1..... \$1,530
Shoreham..... 1..... \$2,622	Waterford..... 2..... \$4,008	Woodford..... 1..... \$8,430
South Burlington... 4..... \$36,413	Weathersfield..... 5..... \$27,010	Woodstock..... 4..... \$15,216
Springfield..... 13..... \$67,146	West Rutland..... 1..... \$2,004	

*Note: Annual tuition savings figures are estimates based on annual tuition rates and FTE enrollment for the fall 2020 semester. The number of students refers to the number of residents by town/city, who are benefiting from the RSP Tuition Break and the savings figure is the total tuition savings afforded to those residents by the RSP in FY2021. The total number of residents with home city or town reported equals 433. A total of 128 cities and towns had residents enrolled through the RSP.*



More than a third of all U.S. postsecondary students took at least one online course in 2019 (even before the pandemic caused a notable increase in online education), and the number of students who are exclusively taking online courses neared 3.5

million.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION  
STATISTICS



IN FALL 2020

**328**

NEW ENGLAND SARA  
INSTITUTIONS

ENROLLED

**862,382**

STUDENTS IN  
100% ONLINE  
PROGRAMS

**31%**

OF THESE STUDENTS  
ENROLLED AT A DISTANCE  
FROM ANY OF THE  
52 PARTICIPATING SARA  
STATES AND TERRITORIES

COMPLETE FALL 2020 SARA  
ENROLLMENT DATA IS NOW  
AVAILABLE: [HTTPS://NC-  
SARA.ORG/DATA-DASHBOARDS](https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards)

## QUESTIONS?

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Reciprocity Agreement  
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## NEW ENGLAND STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCIITY AGREEMENT (SARA)

Nationwide, the number of students who access postsecondary education opportunities online continues to grow.

As institutions seek to offer their programs to a broader market, particularly to out-of-state students via online and distance learning, they may be required to seek "authorization" in as many as 54 U.S. States and territories.

This process, called "State Authorization", is required for participation in Title IV programs and can be an onerous, costly and time-consuming process for institutions to navigate.

### FUTURE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

In 2020, higher education institutions rapidly deployed online course delivery at an unprecedented scale in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, during the fall 2020 semester, **92% of New England postsecondary institutions** opted to continue offering remote learning to lessen disruption to students who were unable to return to campus.

This distance education boom pushed the importance of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) into a new light as many institutions found themselves suddenly operating across state lines. Since March 2020, **43 New England institutions** have sought SARA participation for the first time.

### NEBHE'S STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCIITY AGREEMENT (SARA)

SARA provides an effective and efficient state-level authorization process for the delivery of postsecondary distance education.

An institution demonstrates to its SARA Home State Portal Entity (SPE) that it meets standard criteria through the submission of an application. With their State's approval, the institution may operate outside of its State under the policies and procedures of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) in 52 participating U.S. Member States and Territories.

Institutions benefit through access to a streamlined authorization approach and significant cost savings on state authorization fees. Students benefit from significantly expanded access to programs that best fit their needs and goals.

NEBHE oversees the membership of the six New England States, plus New Jersey and New York in conjunction with NC-SARA.



National Council for  
State Authorization  
Reciprocity Agreements

MHEC • NEBHE • SREB • WICHE

[MORE ABOUT NC-SARA](#)



## STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT (SARA) IN

# VERMONT

IN FALL 2020

15

VERMONT INSTITUTIONS  
ENROLLED

12,553

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN  
100% ONLINE PROGRAMS  
OFFERED BY VERMONT  
SARA INSTITUTIONS



5,678

WERE STUDENTS LOCATED  
OUTSIDE OF THE  
STATE OF VERMONT

### VT PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS AS OF FALL 2021:

Bennington College  
Castleton University  
Champlain College  
Community College of Vermont  
Goddard College  
Landmark College  
Middlebury College  
Northern Vermont University  
Norwich University  
Saint Michaels College  
School for International Training  
Sterling College  
University of Vermont  
Vermont Law School  
Vermont Technical College



The **New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)** serves as the regional leader of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), a voluntary agreement among member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for the high-quality interstate delivery of postsecondary distance education.

Participation in SARA reduces the costs of delivering online learning—resulting from inconsistent, complicated and expensive regulatory processes—\*saving Vermont institutions approximately **\$1.3 million** in initial state authorization fees and nearly **\$500K** in annual renewal fees—while helping create access for students to high-quality online programs to meet the needs of their busy lives.

\*"Game Changer" report - NC SARA & NCHEMS April 2021

### NEBHE'S STATE PARTNER

The Vermont Agency of Education (VT AoE) serves as the "SARA State Portal Entity" in the State of Vermont. The agency works closely with the **New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)** and the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) as a vital partner to implement the agreement in the state.

VT AoE verifies compliance with SARA standards and oversees the online and distance learning activities of the currently **15 participating institutions** in Vermont under SARA.

For more information on State SARA operations visit **VT AoE online**.

[Visit VT AoE online](#)



### TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

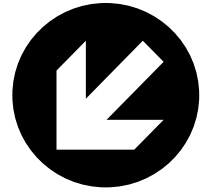
Jared Abdirkin, Regional Director for SARA  
jabdirkin@nebhe.org or (617)-533-9503





# NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE TRANSFER GUARANTEE

# MORE OPTIONS, MADE EASY



## Choose the new route to a bachelor's degree.

Community college graduates can now transfer directly to participating four-year colleges in their state. The Guarantee provides a clear, affordable path for associate degree holders with an eligible GPA to complete a bachelor's degree at 30+ independent colleges across New England, admission guaranteed.

It's simple, seamless, smart.

### STUDENTS

- More four-year choices than ever.
- Guaranteed admission with full credit transfer.
- No admissions fees, more financial support.

### EDUCATORS

- Simple, one-stop process for all schools.
- Better matches for individual students.
- No lost time and fewer financial hurdles.

### STATES

- A more efficient statewide college transfer system.
- Fewer barriers for diverse students.
- Higher rates of degree completion.

## FIND YOUR PATH

Visit your state's Guarantee website to plan your path to a 4-year degree.



**CONNECTICUT**  
[ct.edu/transfer/  
guarantee](http://ct.edu/transfer/guarantee)



**MASSACHUSETTS**  
[mass.edu/  
masstransfer/  
maguarantee](http://mass.edu/masstransfer/maguarantee)



**RHODE ISLAND**  
[www.ccri.edu/  
riguarantee](http://www.ccri.edu/riguarantee)



## STUDENTS

# Choose your best route.

If you're seeking a clear, affordable route to a bachelor's degree, you now have options.

- Complete an associate degree with minimum GPA from a community college.
- Then visit your state's transfer website to find participating four-year colleges that offer your desired major(s).
- Review GPA and eligibility requirements by school and major.
- Discover scholarships and other incentives that put your ideal program within reach.



## EDUCATORS

# Advise with confidence.

Share expanded college opportunities with your high school and community college students.

- Access one-stop information on all participating colleges via a single website.
- Help students find a program aligned with their interests and aspirations.
- Remove the guesswork by showing students how their credits can transfer, guaranteed.



## STATES

# Build a better transfer system.

Join schools and leaders across New England in expanding college access and success.

- The state-led New England College Transfer Guarantee is now up and running in three states, with more to come.
- The Guarantee unifies statewide transfer policies, making college options more straightforward and accessible.
- Use the Guarantee to reduce barriers and increase associate and bachelor's degree completion rates.

## FIND YOUR PATH



Visit your state's website to plan your path to a four-year degree.

The Guarantee is a multi-state partnership led by the New England Board of Higher Education: [nebhe.org](http://nebhe.org)



# MORE OPTIONS, MADE EASY



### **New England College Transfer Guarantee Facilitators**

Emily Decatur, Project lead, Senior Program Manager of Transfer Initiatives  
Stafford Peat, Senior Policy and Research Consultant

### **New England College Transfer Guarantee Vermont Partners**

Joyce Judy, President, Community College of Vermont  
Deborah Stewart, Dean of Academic Affairs, Community College of Vermont  
Susan Stitely, President, Association of Vermont Independent Colleges

### **Planning Grant Details**

The initiative is funded by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation and the Teagle Foundation through an eight-month \$50,000 planning grant. The grant will run from July 2021 through February 2022. Subject to the success of the planning grant, NEBHE plans to submit a three-year implementation proposal in the spring of 2022.

### **About the New England Transfer Guarantee**

Through the [New England College Transfer Guarantee](#) (the Guarantee), the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) has developed systematic transfer pathways in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island for eligible associates holding community college graduates into four-year independent institutions. In July 2021, NEBHE received funding to begin exploring the feasibility of scaling the Guarantee to the northern New England states.

In the northern New England states the Guarantee aims to unify state transfer and expand opportunities for the northern region's community college student population at public and independent institutions. The four key goals of Scaling the Guarantee are to:

1. Build stronger partnerships between community colleges and four-year public and independent institutions in the three states.
2. Develop a unified guaranteed admission transfer system for community college students.
3. Promote transfer into liberal arts programs.
4. Increase the number of community college transfer students who earn a bachelor's degree.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### *New England Board of Higher Education*

The NEBHE facilitators are responsible for the implementation of the activities, organization, and goal fulfillment outlined in the planning grant proposal. Emily Decatur will serve as the overall project director, along with the support of Stafford Peat. NEBHE will execute the grant deliverables outlined in the "Planning Grant Activities" section below.



### *New England College Transfer Guarantee Vermont Partners*

NEBHE partners will play a critical role in advising and shepherding the scaling of the Guarantee by providing crucial input and advice in order to effectively implement the Guarantee. NEBHE's partners will:

1. Sign Letters of Support and Intent to Participate (non-binding) in the scaling of the Guarantee.
2. Provide guidance for state convening, including helping to identify participating institutions.
3. Review and provide input on the Guarantee Foundational Design and Guiding Principles.
4. Verify the accuracy of the NEBHE prepared scan of existing articulation agreements, pathways, and other transfer agreements or programs.
5. Serve as a resource in responding to questions related to transfer, including general education requirements, articulation agreements and institutional transfer policy.
6. Serve as a communications bridge with member institutions by informing institutional administrative staff and faculty about the initiative and key goals of the planning grant.

### **Planning Grant Activities**

The eight-month planning phase will serve to explore the feasibility of scaling and cultivate buy-in from community colleges and independent and higher education systems. NEBHE will execute the following activities under the planning grant:

1. Host state-specific convening on December 15, 2021
  - o Include independent institutional participants - college presidents, provosts, deans of enrollment management, transfer admissions representatives, community college transfer advisors, registrars, and liberal arts faculty from two-year and independent four-year institutions.
  - o Promote buy-in of the Guarantee transfer methodology and Guiding Principles.
2. Seek active support from institutional presidents through signing a Letter of Intent to Participate post convening.
3. Complete a transfer policy and practice self-assessment for institutions that have signed commitment letters.
4. Initiate development of a state-specific Foundational Design and Guiding Principles.
5. Identify general education (block) requirements including the number of credits and courses for each state.
6. Identify existing liberal arts and other transfer pathways including articulation agreements.
7. Identify steering committee members for each state.

### **Success Metrics**

In order to develop a sustainable unified transfer system, NEBHE's primary targets include an initial commitment of participation from:

1. 50% of independent four-year institutions in Vermont.
2. Community College of Vermont participation.

*For more information, contact Emily at [edecatur@nebhe.org](mailto:edecatur@nebhe.org)*

## **High Value Credentials for New England: Vermont Update**

Through the leadership of Advance Vermont, over the past several months, Vermont has made great progress in building out the statewide Credential Registry. To date, all public colleges and universities as well as four private colleges have submitted credential information to the Registry. Moreover, Vermont is one of the first states to publish its credential program information in a user friendly, public facing tool with Advance VT's career and education resource hub, [MyFutureVT](#). Vermont will also be on the leading edge of states to publish CTE program data. Other updates include:

### **Legislative/State-level**

- Advance Vermont has made good progress educating executive and legislative officials on credential transparency
- Representative Kathleen James introduced legislation ([H.377](#)) that puts Vermont on a path to credential transparency.
- Recognizing the importance of MyFutureVT and the Vermont Credential Transparency Project, the State appropriated FY22 funds to Advance VT to support this work. Advance VT also secured a contract with Vermont VocRehab to ensure these resources are available to its staff and the clients they serve.

### **Advance Vermont**

- Welcomed new team member focused on credential transparency
- Advanced efforts to collect additional non-degree credentials, including from CTEs
- Expanded collection beyond those credentials aligned with Vermont's high-pay, high-demand jobs in
- Advance VT has made good progress educating executive and legislative officials on credential transparency