

Sec. E.337 COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VERMONT; FUNDING

16 V.S.A. Sec. 4025(b)(1) is amended to read:

(1) To make payments to school districts and supervisory unions for the support of education in accordance with the provisions of section 4028 of this title, other provisions of this chapter, the provisions of 32 V.S.A. chapter 135, and to provide funding for the community high school of Vermont and the Flexible Pathways Initiative established by section 941 of this title, but excluding adult education and literacy programs under section 945 of this title.

EXPLANATION: Reestablishes the use of the Education Fund for the Community High School of Vermont.

Sec. E.501 AGENCY OF EDUCATION; ESSER III FUND PLAN

(a) The following sums are appropriated from the ESSER III funds to the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2023:

(A) \$2,852,234 for Evidence-Based Summer Programming: Grant program for schools to offer district-wide tutoring or the implementation of a statewide contract to set up tutoring by a vendor (potentially virtual or hybrid to ensure that we can reach all students). A statewide vendor is used to address staffing shortages. The requirement that this be evidence-based tutoring is necessary to meet ARPA ESSER eligibility criteria.

(B) \$2,852,234 for Evidence-Based Afterschool Programming: Seed grants to districts for adoption of 21C quality approaches without necessarily having to meet the usual 21C stringent grant criteria, with targeting to districts that have been challenged to stand up 21C programs due to geographic challenges. The requirement that this be evidence-based (21C programming) is necessary to meet ARPA ESSER eligibility criteria.

(C) \$1,352,170 for the implementation of evidence-based interventions aimed specifically at addressing learning loss, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs.

(D) \$1,130,586 for meeting other needs as determined by the state educational agency (AOE) to address issues in responding to COVID-19.

EXPLANATION: Allocation of the remaining ESSER III funds not yet appropriated.

EXPLANATION: Acknowledgement of Occupational Licensing Reform initiative with respect to Teacher Licensing Fund revenue.

Sec. E.502 EDUCATION – SPECIAL EDUCATION: FORMULA GRANTS

(a) Of the appropriation authorized in section B.502 of this act, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, an amount not to exceed \$4,073,400 shall be used by the Agency of Education in fiscal year 2023 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).

EXPLANATION: The language establishes how much of the special education funding formula shall be used for 16 V.S.A Sec 2967(b)(2)-(6).

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.

EXPLANATION: Annual language.

Sec. E.504.1 EDUCATION – FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

(a) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$2,100,000 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).

(b) Notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 4025(b), of this Education Fund appropriation, the amount of:

- (1) \$921,500 is available for dual enrollment programs notwithstanding 16 V.S.A. § 944(f)(2);
- (2) \$1,800,000 is available to support the Vermont Virtual High School;
- (3) \$400,000 is available for secondary school reform grants; and
- (4) \$3,200,000 is available for Early College pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 4011(e).

(c) Of the appropriation in Sec. B.504 of this act, \$921,500 from the General Fund is available for dual enrollment programs.

EXPLANATION: Annual language ensures that education funds are paid directly to school districts to fund the high school completion program, to help fund the dual enrollment program created in 16 V.S.A Sec 944, and to support distance learning in Vermont schools.