

# **Background on Adult Education and Literacy Programs and HSCP**

**House Committee on Education**

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# **Act 78, Sec. E.504 ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY HSCP**

# Adult Education and Literacy HSCP Student Access Study Committee – Excerpt 1

*The High School Completion Program (HSCP) is experiencing decreased enrollment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, policy changes within the program, and lower literacy skills that limit acceptance into the program. Adult basic education programs overall are experiencing funding reductions due to decreased enrollment.*

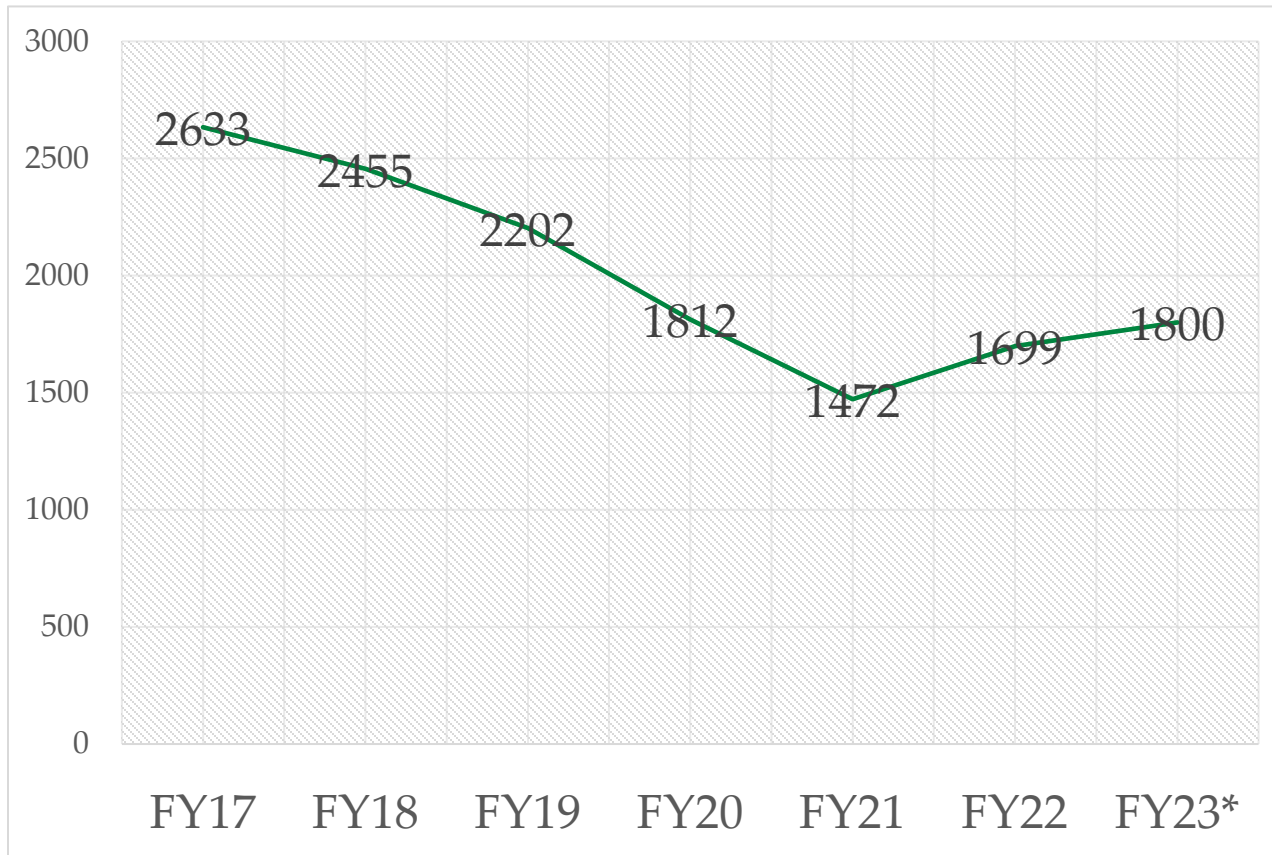
# Adult Education and Literacy HSCP Student Access Study Committee – Excerpt 2

*The Committee shall review and make recommendations to reduce barriers for vulnerable Vermonters, including English learner applicants to Adult Education Programs, including any discrepancies between admission and testing standards for English learner applicants and all other applicants. The Committee shall provide recommendations in its report to the Joint Fiscal Committee and the House and Senate Committees on Education on how to increase equity and education access to Adult Education Programs. The Committee shall include in its report any administrative changes that could be made to help achieve these goals.*

# Adult Education and Literacy HSCP Student Access Study Committee – Excerpt 3

*It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Committee report be used to inform fiscal year 2025 budget considerations and that the recommendations of the Committee be implemented to increase HSCP enrollment.*

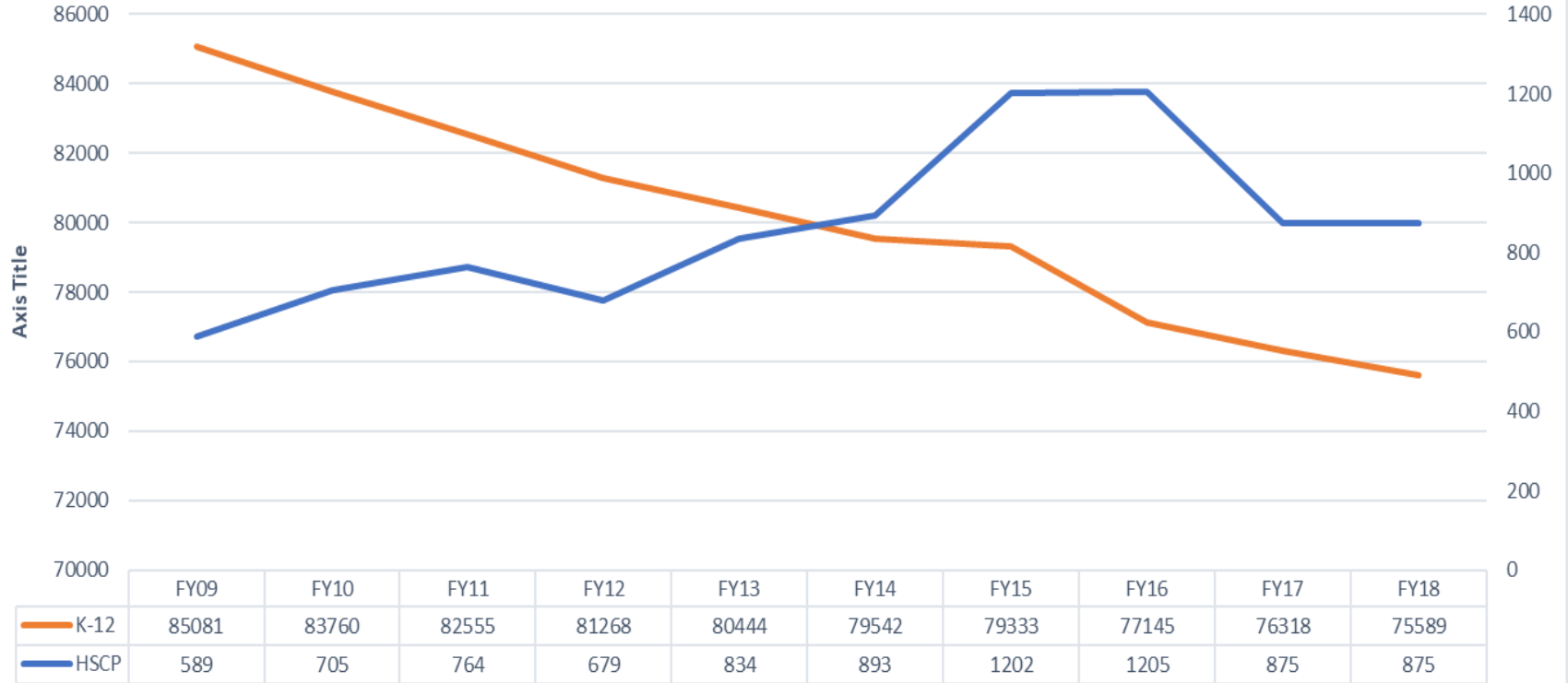
# Total Students Served in AEL System



\*Data for FY23 estimated.

# A Pre-Pandemic Look (FY09 – FY18)

**K-12 vs HSCP population FY09-FY18**



Axis Title

— K-12 — HSCP

# Total AEL Grant Fund Distribution

Approximately 17% of funds awarded to AEL Providers were Federal and 83% were State in FY23

Fiscal year	Total (FF + GF) Grant funds
20	\$4,427,172
21	\$4,322,582
22	\$4,706,210
23	\$5,054,235
24	\$5,331,662

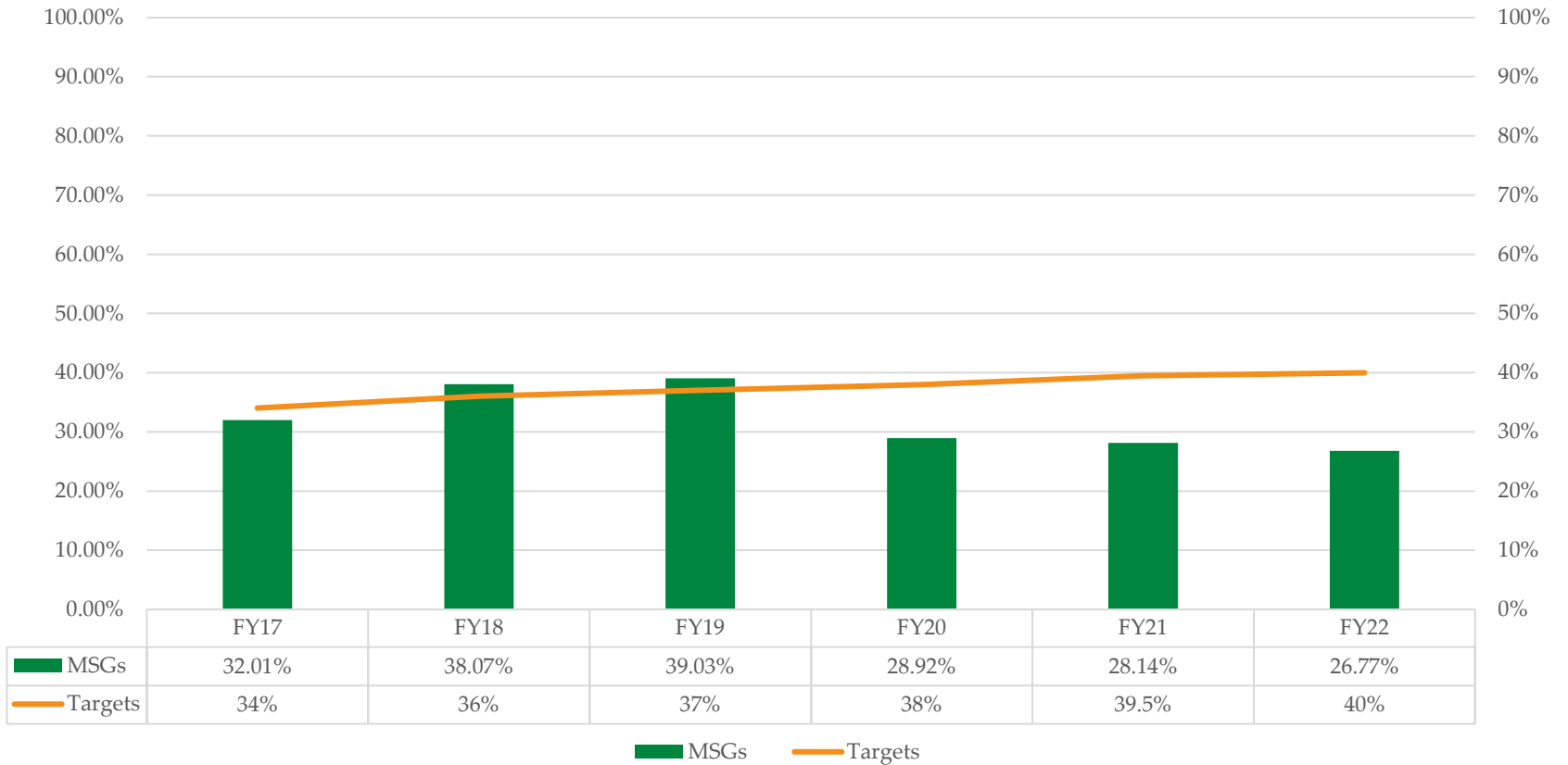
- In **FY17**, state grant total was **\$3,291,955**; unique students were **2633**
- In **FY22**, state grant total was **\$3,846,850**; total unique students served **1699**

This excludes federal and HSCP



# Measurable Skill Gain Percentages Reported Federal Population 2017-2022

Federal MSGs Earned



# Grant Funds Support Adult Education - including those with a goal of high school credential\*

Provider	100- Salaries and 200- benefits	300- Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400- Purchased property services	500- Other purchased services	600- Supplies	Indirect (Federal rate of 5%)
	79.78%	2.33%	11.75%	4.15%	1.99%	0.00%
<b>CVABE</b>						
<b>NEKLS</b>	91.03%	0.00%	7.18%	0.16%	0.73%	0.91%
<b>TTC</b>	82.29%	1.60%	9.07%	4.73%	1.41%	0.91%
<b>VAL</b>	89.14%	0.00%	8.39%	1.07%	0.41%	0.99%
<b>Average</b>	85.56%	0.98%	9.10%	2.53%	1.14%	0.70%

# Defining the Problem

*One might theorize that at some time in the future, the HSCP will be truly successful if the numbers in the program actually decline[,] and it no longer exists in its current format. This would indicate that schools are indeed transforming and meeting the needs of all students.*

*Vermont High School Completion Program  
2006 – 2010 Evaluation Report, Executive Summary, July 2011  
CESS, University of Vermont*

# **Legislative and Regulatory Background**

# **Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act**

WIOA is landmark legislation that is designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help get Americans, including youth and those with significant barriers to employment, into high-quality jobs and careers and help employers hire and retain skilled workers.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/wioa>

# WIOA Administration in Vermont

Per WIOA, Section 203(3), the Eligible Agency is the sole agency in the State responsible for administering or supervising policy for adult education and literacy activities in the State, consistent with the law of the State. The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) is the Eligible Agency in Vermont under Title II of WIOA.

- [Joint Rules](#): One-Stop System
- [FY23 Grant Application](#) (for FY24 – FY25)

# WIOA in Vermont

The State of Vermont developed a WIOA Unified State Plan in 2016, approved by the federal government, to meet the requirements of WIOA, Public Law No. 113–128. The current WIOA Combined State Plan covers the period of FY21-FY24 and includes the four core WIOA programs and the state agencies responsible for oversight:

- Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker Programs under Title I (VDOL)
- Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) Act Program under Title II (VAOE)
- Wagner-Peyser Act Program under Title III (VDOL)
- Vocational Rehabilitation Program under Title IV (AHS)

General Provisions (applies to the four program-specific titles).

Vermont's WIOA State Plan is currently being updated as per federal rules.

# Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education (IELCE)

As part of WIOA, Vermont receives a “small state minimum” Federal award each year to:

- (1) prepare adults who are English language learners for, and place such adults in, unsubsidized employment in in-demand industries and occupations that lead to economic self-sufficiency; []
- (2) integrate with the local workforce development system and its functions to carry out the activities of the program.

- **68%** (n=265) of the 390 ELLs served in FY22 **already had a minimum of a high school credential at entry**
- 34% held a postsecondary degree of Associate’s or higher.
- 83% (n=323) of ELL students in FY22 were non-white.

Relying solely on the small state minimum is insufficient to serve English language learners and is a requirement of the grant program as a basic expectation.



# **Adult Education in Vermont – State**

16 V.S.A. §1049 formerly organized under Subchapter 6 – Adult Education and Literacy – and relating to the adult program and GED programs was **redesignated in 2013, No. 77 under the [Adult Diploma Program](#)**

# 16 V.S.A. § 4011

*(f) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a department or agency that provides an adult diploma program an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount **for each student who completed the diagnostic portion of the program**, based on an average of the previous two years.*

# Chapter 133 : State Funding Of Public Education; 16 V.S.A. § 4025

(b) *Monies in the Education Fund shall be used for the following:*

(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 the Flexible Pathways Initiative established by section 941 of this title, **but excluding adult education and literacy programs under section 945 of this title.***

(d) *Upon withdrawal of funds from the Education Fund for any purpose other than those authorized by this section, 32 V.S.A. chapter 135 (education property tax) is repealed.*

# High School Completion Program

HSCP was created through the passage of Act 176 (2006) and first initiated in 2006, it was to re-engage learners who had not completed secondary school; only those unenrolled from school could access the program.

With the passage of Act 44 (2009), the statute (formerly 16 V.S.A. §1049a now redesignated) was expanded to allow enrolled-in-school students to participate in the program to reduce interruptions in learning.

With the passage of Act 77 of 2013, the HSCP was redesignated as ([16 V.S.A. § 943](#)) under the Flexible Pathways Initiative.

# 16 V.S.A. § 941; Flexible Pathways Initiative

## § 941. Flexible Pathways Initiative

*(a) There is created within the Agency a Flexible Pathways Initiative:*

- (1) to encourage and support the creativity of school districts as they develop and expand high-quality educational experiences that are an integral part of secondary education in the evolving 21st Century classroom;*
- (2) to promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities; and*
- (3) to increase the rates of secondary school completion and postsecondary continuation in Vermont.*

# **SBE 2401 Statement of Purpose**

## [State Board Rule Series 2400](#)

*The purpose of Adult Education programs is to offer adults the opportunity **to acquire the level of education and technical training skills necessary for active participation as family members, citizens and learners, and for economic self-sufficiency.** Adult Education programs seek to expand educational opportunities and enable eligible adults to continue their education to at least the level of secondary school completion.*

# Adult Education SoF Totals

	FY22	FY23	FY24
ADP (Gen Fund)	\$873,000	\$873,000	\$873,000
AEL (Gen Fund)	\$2,623,850	\$2,623,850	\$2,623,850
WIOA (Fed Fund)	\$859,360	\$857,385	\$834,812
One Time Appropriations GF	\$350,000	\$700,000	\$1,000,000
AEL Grant TOTALS	\$4,706,210	\$5,054,235	\$5,331,662
HSCP (Ed Fund- District \$\$)	\$1,271,801	\$1,287,468	\$238,375
TOTALS	\$5,978,011	\$6,341,703	\$5,570,037

# AEL Projections & Reflections

	FY22	FY23	FY24
Total Eligible Students	1664	1902	1783
Estimated Funds per 4011 formula with updates to ADP	4,512,971.32	4,933,159.14	\$ 6,055,745.54
	FY22	FY23	FY24
Difference from Projected ADP			
Less (ADP+AEL) = 3496850	\$ (1,016,121.32)	\$ (1,436,309.14)	\$ (2,558,895.54)
Less One-Time Apprps	\$ (666,121.32)	\$ (736,309.14)	\$ (1,558,895.54)