

1 Introduced by Committee on Education

2 Date:

3 Subject: adult education; adult diploma; menstrual products; postsecondary
4 schools

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make several
6 amendments to education law, including:

7 (1) repealing the High School Completion Program and making changes
8 to the State’s adult education and literacy program;

9 (2) requiring a report on the postgraduation career and settlement
10 behaviors of students attending Vermont colleges and universities; and

11 (3) requiring access to menstrual products in all applicable bathrooms.

12 An act relating to miscellaneous changes in education laws

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 * * * Adult Education and Literacy * * *

15 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 945 is amended to read:

16 § 945. ~~ADULT DIPLOMA PROGRAM; GENERAL EDUCATIONAL~~
17 ~~DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM~~ ADULT EDUCATION AND
18 SECONDARY CREDENTIAL PROGRAM

19 (a) The Secretary shall maintain an Adult Diploma Program (ADP), which
20 shall be an assessment process administered by the Agency through which an

1 ~~individual~~ any Vermont resident who is at least ~~20~~ 16 years of age; who has
2 not received a high school diploma; and who is not enrolled in a public or
3 approved independent school, post-secondary institution, or home study
4 program can receive a local high school diploma granted by one of the
5 Program’s participating high schools.

6 (b) The Secretary shall maintain a General Educational Development
7 (GED) Program, which it shall administer jointly with the GED testing service
8 and approved local testing centers and through which ~~an adult individual a~~
9 Vermont resident who is at least 16 years of age ~~and~~; who has not received a
10 high school diploma; and who is not enrolled in secondary public or approved
11 independent school, post-secondary institution, or home study program can
12 receive a secondary school equivalency certificate based on successful
13 completion of the GED tests.

14 (c) The Secretary may provide additional programs designed to address the
15 individual needs and circumstances of adult students, particularly students with
16 the lowest levels of literacy skills.

17 Sec. 2. REPEAL

18 16 V.S.A. § 943 (High School Completion Program) is repealed.

19 Sec. 3. 16 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

20 § 941. FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

21 * * *

1 (b) The Secretary shall develop, publish, and regularly update guidance, in
2 the form of technical assistance, sharing of best practices and model
3 documents, legal interpretations, and other support designed to assist school
4 districts:

5 (1) to identify and support secondary students who require additional
6 assistance to succeed in school and to identify ways in which individual
7 students would benefit from flexible pathways to graduation;

8 (2) to work with every student in grade 7 through grade 12 in an
9 ongoing personalized learning planning process that:

10 (A) identifies the student’s emerging abilities, aptitude, and
11 disposition;

12 (B) includes participation by families and other engaged adults;

13 (C) guides decisions regarding course offerings and other high-
14 quality educational experiences; and

15 (D) is documented by a personalized learning plan;

16 (3) to create opportunities for secondary students to pursue flexible
17 pathways to graduation that:

18 (A) increase aspiration and encourage postsecondary continuation of
19 training and education;

20 (B) are an integral component of a student’s personalized learning
21 plan; and

1 (C) include:

2 (i) applied or work-based learning opportunities, including career
3 and career technical education and internships;

4 (ii) virtual learning and blended learning;

5 (iii) dual enrollment opportunities as set forth in section 944 of
6 this title;

7 (iv) early college programs as set forth in subsection 4011(e) of
8 this title; and

9 (v) ~~the High School Completion Program as set forth in section~~
10 ~~943 of this title; and~~ [Repealed.]

11 (vi) ~~the Adult Diploma Program and General Educational~~
12 ~~Development Program~~ adult education and secondary credential opportunities
13 as set forth in section 945 of this title; and

14 (4) to provide students, beginning ~~no~~ not later than in grade 7, with
15 career development and postsecondary planning resources to ensure that they
16 are able to take full advantage of the opportunities available within the flexible
17 pathways to graduation and to achieve their career and postsecondary
18 education and training goals.

19 * * *

1 Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 4011 is amended to read:

2 § 4011. EDUCATION PAYMENTS

3 (a) Annually, the General Assembly shall appropriate funds to pay for
4 statewide education spending and a portion of a base education amount for
5 each adult ~~diploma~~ education and secondary credential program student.

6 * * *

7 (f) Annually, the Secretary shall pay to a ~~department or agency~~ local adult
8 education and literacy provider, as defined in section 942 of this title, that
9 provides an adult ~~diploma~~ education and secondary credential program an
10 amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount for each student who
11 ~~completed~~ completes the diagnostic ~~portion~~ portions of the program, based on
12 an average of the previous two years.

13 * * *

14 Sec. 5. 16 V.S.A. § 944 is amended to read:

15 § 944. DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

16 * * *

17 (b) Students.

18 (1) A Vermont resident who has completed grade 10 but has not
19 received a high school diploma is eligible to participate in the Program if:

20 (A) the student:

21 (i) is enrolled in:

1 (I) a Vermont public school, including a Vermont career
2 technical center;

3 (II) a public school in another state or an approved independent
4 school that is designated as the public secondary school for the student's
5 district of residence; or

6 (III) an approved independent school in Vermont to which the
7 student's district of residence pays publicly funded tuition on behalf of the
8 student; or

9 (ii) ~~is assigned to a public school through the High School~~
10 ~~Completion Program; or [Repealed.]~~

11 (iii) is a home study student;

12 (B) dual enrollment is an element included within the student's
13 personalized learning plan; and

14 (C) the secondary school and the postsecondary institution have
15 determined that the student is sufficiently prepared to succeed in a dual
16 enrollment course, which can be determined in part by the assessment tool or
17 tools identified by the participating postsecondary institution.

18 * * *

1 * * * Career and Settlement Behaviors of Postsecondary Graduates* * *

2 Sec. 6. POSTGRADUATION CAREER AND SETTLEMENT

3 BEHAVIORS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING VERMONT

4 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS; REPORT

5 (a) On or before July 1, 2025, the Agencies of Education and of Commerce
6 and Community Development and the Department of Labor, in consultation
7 with Vermont’s public and private postsecondary education institutions, shall
8 issue a written report to the General Assembly on the postgraduation career
9 and settlement behaviors of students attending Vermont colleges and
10 universities. At a minimum, the report shall include:

11 (1) an analysis and discussion of why Vermont is last in the country in
12 percentage of college students who stay in the same state in which the school
13 they graduated from is located;

14 (2) information on the types of degrees most commonly attained at
15 Vermont-based postsecondary education institutions;

16 (3) a discussion of the obstacles preventing graduates from staying in
17 Vermont, including whether housing options factor into settlement decisions;
18 and

19 (4) a comprehensive plan to increase the percentage of Vermont
20 graduates who plan to live and work in Vermont for at least five years
21 postgraduation, which shall include the following initiatives:

1 (A) better college-career pipelines between higher education
2 institutions and employers in Vermont;

3 (B) expanding career counseling and career development services on
4 campuses, focused on Vermont industries and companies;

5 (C) increased campus-community ties through service, cultural
6 exchanges, and other community initiatives; and

7 (D) incentives, including preferential or streamlined pathways to
8 licensure for graduating students.

9 (b) In preparing this report, the entities listed in subsection (a) of this
10 section shall have the administrative and technical support of the Agency of
11 Education.

12 * * * Menstrual Products in Schools * * *

13 Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 1432 is amended to read:

14 § 1432. MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

15 (a) By enacting this statute, the General Assembly intends to ensure that all
16 students attending a public school or an approved independent school have
17 access to menstrual products at no cost and without having to request them.

18 (b)(1) A school district and an approved independent school shall make
19 menstrual products available at no cost for each school within the district or
20 under the jurisdiction of the board of the independent school in:

1 (A) ~~a majority of~~ all gender-neutral bathrooms and bathrooms
2 designated for female students that are generally used by students who are
3 eight years of age or older; and

4 (B) the school nurse’s office.

5 (2) The school district or independent school, in consultation with the
6 school nurse who provides services to the school, shall determine ~~which of the~~
7 ~~gender-neutral bathrooms and bathrooms designated for female students to~~
8 ~~stock with menstrual products and~~ which brands to use.

9 (c) School districts and approved independent schools shall bear the cost of
10 supplying menstrual products and may seek grants or partner with a nonprofit
11 or community-based organization to fulfill this obligation.

12 (d) Notwithstanding subdivision (b)(1)(A) of this section, if a school
13 district or approved independent school finds that the menstrual products
14 provided under this section are being used to vandalize school property, the
15 school district or approved independent school may decline to make menstrual
16 products available in a bathroom that has been subject to vandalism only after
17 the school district or approved independent school has exhausted all other
18 alternatives to removing menstrual products altogether.

1 * * * Uniform Chart of Accounts * * *

2 Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 326 is added to read:

3 § 326. UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS

4 (a) A GASB compliant Uniform Chart of Accounts and Financial
5 Reporting requirements shall be established and maintained by the Agency of
6 Education which shall:

7 (1) be comprehensive in respect to compliance with federal funds
8 reporting requirements; and

9 (2) provide the financial information necessary for State and local
10 education decision makers in regard to specific program costs and evaluation
11 of student results.

12 (b) All supervisory unions and supervisory districts shall use the Uniform
13 Chart of Accounts to report all school finance data.

14 Sec. 9. REPEAL

15 2014 Acts and Resolves No. 179, Sec. E.500.1, as amended by 2015 Acts
16 and Resolves No. 58, Sec. E.500.1, and 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 6, Sec. 95
17 is repealed.

18 * * * Military-Related Postsecondary Opportunities * * *

19 Sec. 10. 16 V.S.A. § 941 is amended to read:

20 § 941. FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS INITIATIVE

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

1 (1) to encourage and support the creativity of school districts as they
2 develop and expand high-quality educational experiences that are an integral
3 part of secondary education in the evolving 21st ~~Century~~ century classroom;

4 (2) to promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve
5 postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that
6 acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities; and

7 (3) to increase the rates of secondary school completion and
8 postsecondary continuation and retention in Vermont.

9 (b) The Secretary shall develop, publish, and regularly update guidance, in
10 the form of technical assistance, sharing of best practices and model
11 documents, legal interpretations, and other support designed to assist school
12 districts:

13 (1) ~~to~~ To identify and support secondary students who require additional
14 assistance to succeed in school and to identify ways in which individual
15 students would benefit from flexible pathways to graduation;

16 (2) ~~to~~ To work with every student in grade 7 seven through grade 12 in
17 an ongoing personalized learning planning process that:

18 (A) identifies the student's emerging abilities, aptitude, and
19 disposition;

20 (B) includes participation by families and other engaged adults;

1 (C) guides decisions regarding course offerings and other high-
2 quality educational experiences; ~~and~~

3 (D) identifies career and postsecondary planning options using
4 resources provided pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection (b); and

5 ~~(D)~~(E) is documented by a personalized learning plan;

6 (3) ~~to~~ To create opportunities for secondary students to pursue flexible
7 pathways to graduation that:

8 (A) increase aspiration and encourage postsecondary continuation of
9 training and education;

10 (B) are an integral component of a student’s personalized learning
11 plan; and

12 (C) include:

13 (i) applied or work-based learning opportunities, including career
14 and career technical education and internships;

15 (ii) virtual learning and blended learning;

16 (iii) dual enrollment opportunities as set forth in section 944 of
17 this title;

18 (iv) early college programs as set forth in subsection 4011(e) of
19 this title;

20 (v) the High School Completion Program as set forth in section
21 943 of this title; and

1 (vi) the Adult Diploma Program and General Educational
2 Development Program as set forth in section 945 of this title; ~~and~~.

3 (4) ~~to~~ To provide students, beginning ~~no~~ not later than in grade 7 seven,
4 with career development and postsecondary planning resources to ensure that
5 they are able to take full advantage of the opportunities available within the
6 flexible pathways to graduation and to achieve their career and postsecondary
7 education and training goals. Resources provided pursuant to this subdivision
8 shall include information regarding the admissions process and requirements
9 necessary to proceed with any and all military-related opportunities.

10 (c) Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as discouraging or
11 limiting the authority of any school district to develop or continue to provide
12 educational opportunities for its students that are otherwise permitted,
13 including the provision of Advanced Placement courses.

14 (d) An individual entitlement or private right of action shall not arise from
15 creation of a personalized learning plan.

16 Sec. 11. 16 V.S.A. § 2828 is added to read:

17 § 2828. PLANNING RESOURCES

18 The Corporation shall include information regarding all military-related
19 options available for postsecondary planning and financial aid opportunities in
20 all planning resources it produces.

21 * * * Effective Date * * *

1 Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.