

2/8/2024

My name is Jill Jaret-Rossi and I live and work in Lamoille County, specifically residing in Wolcott. I can be reached at 802-760-8432 or by email at jjaret-rossi@mtb.com. I am a Board Member, and Treasurer, for Central Vermont Adult Education, who supports students in and around Lamoille, Washington, and Orange Counties. I am writing today, specific to the FY25 Budget, asking for you to please support and enact the legislative changes recommended in the Adult Education & Literacy High School Completion Student Access Report, which include: sunseting the HSCP and moving AEL funding into one grant program under the Adult Diploma Program; making the eligible age of a student consistent across all sections of the legislation at age 16; eliminating the TABE testing as a funding mechanism; and honoring the funding mechanism in our governing statute that says AEL providers shall be paid "an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount for each student who completed the diagnostic portion of the program, which should result in an appropriation of **\$6.3 million**.

At CVAE, our students are at the center of our work, and we know that success looks different for every student, which is why our programming and activities are specifically tailored to each student's unique needs and goals. I experienced this firsthand when my cousin, who relocated to Vermont from Massachusetts to live with my parents, dropped out of high school after his junior year. He was overwhelmed, discouraged, and had a feeling of hopelessness. Then he found CVAE. He flourished in their environment, their hands on approach to tailoring a learning plan, and pathway to his GED. He is now married, with three beautiful children of his own, with a successful career, providing for his family, just as many other Vermonter's dream of doing themselves. Vermont, and CVAE, were instrumental in this transformation and as a family, we will be forever grateful.

So, I ask again, please support and enact the legislative changes recommended in the Adult Education & Literacy High School Completion Student Access Report, as referenced above. Please, work to find a solution for where the funding comes from, it's more important than ever to Vermont's future.

With much respect,

Jill Jaret-Rossi
Wolcott, VT
Board Member/Treasurer of CVAE