

FY25 Budget Public Hearing
Testimony from Joe Przyperhart
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My name is Joe Przyperhart and I am a resident of Middlebury, VT and the Program Director for Vermont Adult Learning, one of the four providers of Adult Education and Literacy services in Vermont. I'm here to ask you to please support and enact the legislative changes recommended in the Adult Education & Literacy High School Completion Student Access Report. These changes include:

- sunsetting 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;
- Eliminating the requirement to achieve a certain score on an assessment to qualify for funding; 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". This last change should result in an appropriation of \$6.3 million.

Vermont's four non-profit Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) providers offer a broad range of services that build assets and change people's lives. Every year I attend our graduation ceremonies and the consistent message I hear from students is gratitude for the opportunity for a better life for themselves and their families. What that looks like varies from student to student. For some, it is the chance to go on to college or other post-secondary training. For others, it is the opportunity to move up in their current job. And for yet others, it is gaining the language skills to talk with their children's teachers or help their children with their homework. What is consistent is that the Adult Education and Literacy Network has opened doors to things they've only dreamed of until then.

Please help us continue to open the door of opportunity for Vermonters by supporting and enacting the legislative changes recommended in the Adult Education & Literacy High School Completion Student Access Report.