

Dee Gilbert  
Vermont Adult Learning (Board Chair)  
Ferrisburgh, Vermont

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Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations:

As Board Chair of Vermont Adult Learning, I am writing to respectfully ask that you include the following language in the Agency of Education's report on adult education funding in the FY27 Budget.

Annually, the total appropriation to be allocated among local adult education and literacy providers, as defined in section 942 of this title, that provides an adult education and secondary credential program, shall be an amount equal to 26 percent of the base education amount for each student who completes the diagnostic portions of the adult education and secondary credential program, based on an average of the previous two completed fiscal years. Forty percent of the appropriation required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the Education Fund and 60 percent of the appropriation required under this subsection shall be from State funds appropriated from the General Fund.

Of the total funding described in subsection (f)(1), the Secretary shall pay to a local adult education and literacy provider that provides an adult education and secondary credential program, for each county in which the provider provides adult education and secondary credential services:

(A) A base amount of \$80,000, and;

(B) An amount equal to the multiplication of:

(i) The total appropriation calculated in subsection (f)(1) minus \$1,120,000, and;

(ii) The ratio of the average number of students in that county that have completed the diagnostic portion of the adult education and secondary credential program over the previous two completed fiscal years to the average number of students statewide that have completed the diagnostic portion of the adult education and secondary credential program statewide over the previous two completed fiscal years.

This language offers a fair, straightforward, and sustainable funding solution that helps ensure adults across Vermont have equitable access to education services. It also supports Vermont's commitment to proficiency-based learning and shifting away from seat time as the main measure of student success. Reliable funding is essential so our students can finish high school credentials, strengthen their English skills, and take meaningful steps toward family-sustaining careers.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Thank you for your ongoing support of Vermont learners.

*Dee Gilbert*