



Vermont State Colleges Update to House Commerce

Dr. Elizabeth K. Mauch, Chancellor

“For the benefit of Vermont”

The system embraces this idea in every action we take.

-VSC mission statement

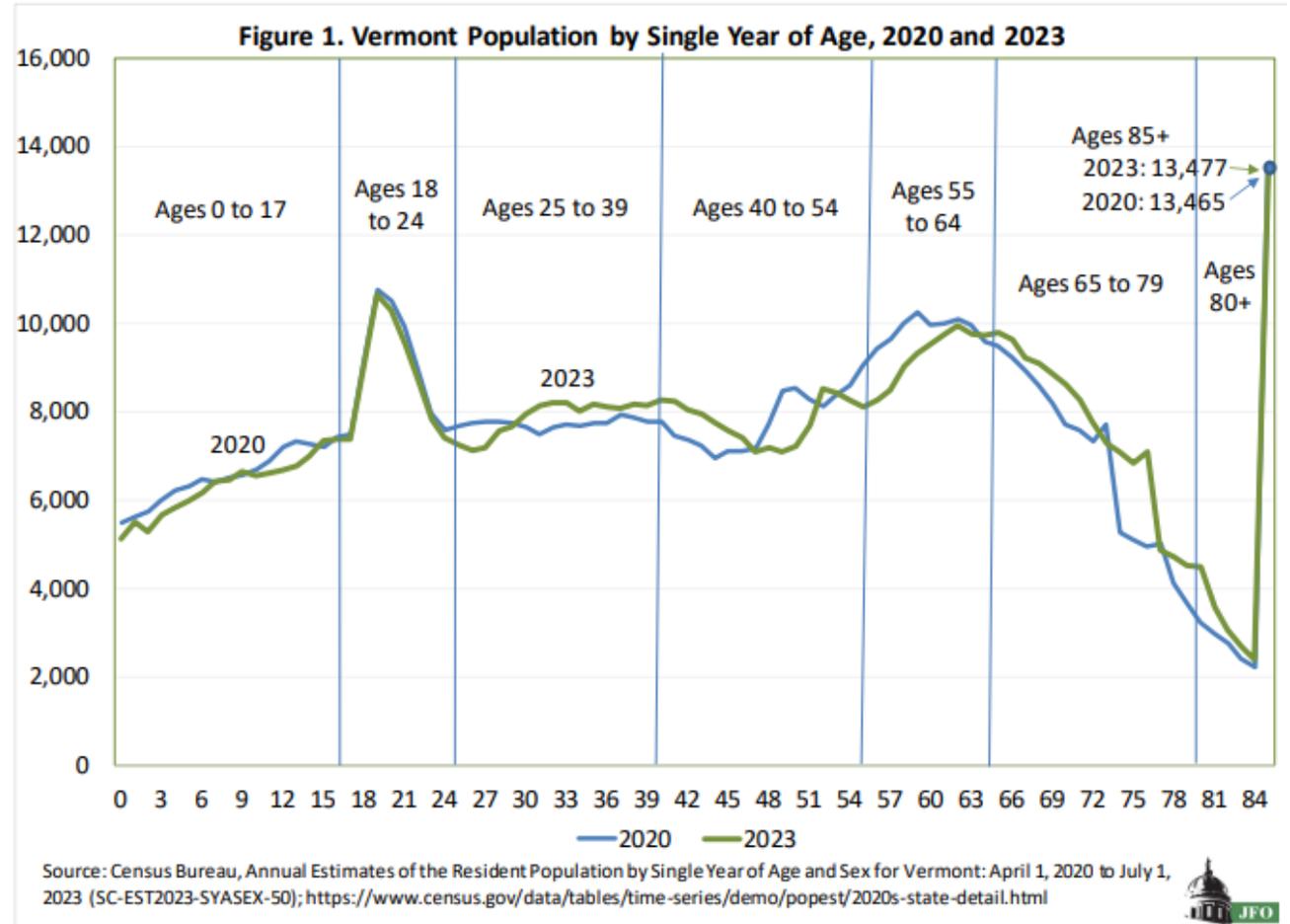


The Vermont State Colleges are Thriving

- More than 83% of all students are Vermonters
- Overall enrollment is up 1.4% since fall 2024
- Online enrollment continues to surge – up 10% year-over-year, highlighting demand for flexible, accessible learning
- Lyndon, Williston & satellite campuses all saw enrollment growth
- Notable growth in key programs including Elementary Education (+58%), Health Science (+26%), and Mechanical Engineering (+46%)

Commitment to our Students

- Vermont is aging and our students' needs are changing too
- Students are older than they used to be with an average age of more than 27
- Concerned about paying for college experience
- Want flexibility and choice



Commitment to our Communities

- Agency of Commerce & Community Development awarded \$6.5 million to Downstreet to create senior housing and apartments in the **McClelland Building of Vermont State University** paving the way for much needed senior housing in Johnson
- Johnson Health Center is actively working with the Vermont State University to relocate operations from the village to the **Johnson campus** in spring 2026
- Actively engaging with regional education partner to potentially relocate operations to the Lyndon Campus of Vermont State University in summer 2026
- Where compatible with the University's academic mission, exploring short & long-term housing arrangements
- Developing an apartment concept, if implemented in Johnson could free up 49 apartments to the open market



Solutions for Business

- The **Career Pathways Entry Program (CPEP)** is an employer-first model including job-shadows, on-the-job training, and classroom instruction with 36 employer partners statewide across industry. The CPEP model has expanded to include a high school employment pathway with BETA technologies, allowing high school students to explore manufacturing careers.
- Current enrollment in **Electrical and Plumbing Apprenticeships** is over 900 apprentices. The graduating class includes 188 in both electrical and plumbing, our largest to date. 322 employers are served through this program.
- The VSC was pleased to learn of two successful CDS proposals in critical industries across Vermont:
 1. **Increasing Healthcare in Rural Communities** was approved through Senator Sanders and includes funding for CCV to widen access to foundational healthcare pathway coursework in rural communities across Vermont in partnership with small, rural hospitals and Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers.
 2. **Manufacturing Composites Certification Initiative** was approved through Senator Welch and includes funding for VTSU to develop a pathway into the manufacturing composites industry through partnerships with Vermont manufacturers, including BETA technologies.



FY2027: General Fund & One-Times

Section B.602 Vermont State Colleges	FY26	FY27 Request	Recommend	Difference
General Fund	52,468,692	54,042,753	54,042,753	-

Section 1110 One-Times	FY26	FY27 Request	Recommend	Difference
FY26 Bridge Funding	5,000,000	-	-	-
Rural Micro Credential & Certificate Expansion	-	1,500,000	-	1,500,000
Total One-Time Sources	5,000,000	1,500,000	-	1,500,000

General Fund Request Sources	FY26	FY27 Request	Recommend	Difference
Total General Fund	57,468,692	55,542,753	54,042,753	1,500,000

FY2027: Allied Health/Global Commitment

Section B.603 VSC Allied Health	FY26	FY27 Request	Recommend	Difference
B.603: General Fund	297,087	306,000	306,000	-
B.603: Global Commitment Fund (GRANT)	1,500,000	3,894,000	1,500,000	2,394,000
Total Allied Health Programming	1,797,087	4,200,000	1,806,000	2,394,000

- Funds are vital in supporting faculty positions, clinical instruction, and student training across our nursing, radiologic sciences, respiratory therapy, and other allied health disciplines
- Acute challenge lies within our nursing programs, where we face significant recruitment and retention obstacles. Non-competitive faculty salaries, compared to regional and national benchmarks, hinder our ability to attract and retain qualified nursing educators.
- Shortfall jeopardizes program quality and limits capacity to train the next generation of nurses at a time when demand continues to rise across the state
- Requesting increasing in B.603: Allied Health Global Commitment grant funding to \$3,894,000 bringing total support to \$4,200,000

FY2027 Capital Budget Request

Capital Bill Act 33 / H9494 as enacted	FY26	FY27	Recommend	Difference
Major Maintenance	1,500,000	1,500,000	n/a	
Johnson, Central Plant Replacement	1,500,000	3,500,000	n/a	
Total Capital Budget as enacted	3,000,000	5,000,000	-	-

Capital Bill Request		FY27	Recommend	Difference
Capital Planning & Pre-Development Costs for Housing		1,000,000	-	1,000,000



Workforce Education: Rural Micro Credential & Certificate Expansion

- Fill critical **paraeducator** shortage
- Upskill workers in rural areas into in demand fields like **health professions** and **auto repair**
- **Short-stackable credentials** and **apprenticeships** with direct career pathways
- **Scalable** with right investment
- Retain & attract talented Vermonters

\$1.5 million one-time investment 10



Freedom & Unity

- Free last dollar standard tuition at Vermont State University
- Administered by VSAC
- Currently offered to families with an AGI of \$65,000 or less
- In fall 2025 supported nearly 200 students
- Program allows students to achieve their bachelors or technical associates degree

Vermont State Colleges is strongly supportive of VSAC's request for expansion to \$2.3 million in base appropriation for this important project

Equal Access, Flexible Paths, Real Opportunity

- Designed to level the playing field, Vermont's flexible pathways expand college readiness and meaningful choices for students
- Increases college and career readiness statewide
- Expands equitable access to opportunity across rural and urban communities
- Supports higher rates of high school completion and postsecondary continuation
- Gives students meaningful choice and ownership over their learning
- Strengthens Vermont's workforce pipeline
- Encourages innovation and local flexibility in schools
- Reduces time and cost to a postsecondary credential

Dual Enrollment	22-23	23-24	24-25
Course Placements	6,780	7,203	7,515
Number of Students Enrolled	2,713	3,139	3,129

Early College	22-23	23-24	24-25*
Students Enrolled	334	355	358

*24-25 data is estimated as of 1/14/2026

Vermont State Colleges

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Thank you!

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