

## Statehouse Testimony (4/25/25)

Good afternoon,

My name is Ari Chapin and I am a senior at U-32 High School in East Montpelier. I have been really invested in my learning and I'm mostly interested in stem. I have worked really hard to find and take the classes that I am inspired by and I feel fortunate because it has mostly worked for me, but for many of my other peers it didn't and it is only becoming harder as a student to create a high school plan that fits your interests. These classes are slowly disappearing because there aren't enough students taking them.

As my brother enters High School, AP Chemistry, is one of the classes that the administration is trimming down because of low demand. AP Chemistry is being switched to every other year and next year's seniors who might have planned to take it will not have that opportunity.

In addition, while I have been able to take all the classes I've wanted, there are very real possibilities that those classes won't run in the future because there won't be enough students to take them. In part, this is due to early college pulling many of my challenge driven peers away from the traditional high school track and the higher level classes at U-32 that I value. I am one of three students taking AP Physics 2, the four students taking AP Computer science, and 7 students taking AP Chemistry.

In previous years, these classes have been filled with seniors, but now around 60 % of the senior class is not going to traditional high school because of the non-traditional pathways such as Career Center and early college.

I hope that as my brother and his friends move through high school that there are the classes and peers needed to support their growth as students and knowledge gained in order to move forward with the next phases of their life.

Thank you.