

## **Heather Duhamel - Vermont State University, ECE Online Program Statement**

### **House Government Operations- April 14**

I am the program director of Vermont State University's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Online, which is an innovative, flexible option for early childhood educators to earn their bachelor's degrees with Agency of Education Licensure (o-PreK). I also serve in a part time capacity as higher education outreach manager for the Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VTAEYC).

The majority of the VTSU ECE Online students work in the field and use the established 2 + 2 transfer pathway from the Community College of Vermont to enter our bachelor's program with 60 completed credits. This transfer honors these credits and field experience driving an accelerated online program sequence that can be completed in 5- semesters, online and that includes a recommendation for the Vermont Agency of Education License (o-PreK).

The model offers accessibility and is effective, with upward of 100 students per semester within the program, organized into 4 online cohorts. Most of our students work full-time in the field of ECE, live in Vermont, and are committed to academic studies using our online course sequence with a peer group. The program is designed to be completed with an Agency of Education licensure built within the program requirements.

This is just one higher education transfer model in Vermont today, that reinforces the proposed ECE I, II, III and supports student success. I really like that ECE II and III align with these transfer pathways because it visibly connects to career development.

About VTSU ECE Online

<https://vermontstate.edu/academic-programs/early-childhood-education-online-completion-bs/>

<https://vermontstate.edu/academic-programs/early-childhood-education-online-completion-bs/?curriculum>

Related op-ed and research completed in collaboration last year:

[https://www.vtaeyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/FINAL\\_VTAEYC\\_Higher-Education-Landscape-Analysis-10-21-2025.docx.pdf](https://www.vtaeyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/FINAL_VTAEYC_Higher-Education-Landscape-Analysis-10-21-2025.docx.pdf)

<https://vtdigger.org/2025/11/24/heather-duhamel-and-kaitlin-northey-vermont-must-protect-and-strengthen-the-programs-that-prepare-early-childhood-educators/>

