

Vermont Youth Declaration of Rights

Social Supports and Connections

Vermont Youth have the right to:

- Express themselves through feelings, speech, clothing, actions, creativity, and more.
- Have support and education from friends, family, and community.
- Have access to healthy food and water.
- Connect to each other through technology and transportation.
- Be respected and heard.
- Be engaged in community.
- A respected voice in making decisions that affect how they live.

Mental Health

Vermont Youth have the right to:

- Have access to affordable mental health care.
- A personal break to handle their mental situation.
- Choose their own identity, whether that be sexual orientation, religious identification, and/or gender identification.
- Have people in society who support their mental well-being.

Hobbies/ Entertainment

Vermont Youth have a right to:

- Free WIFI in or out of school or work for educational purposes.
- Access free entertainment and opportunities to try a variety of activities
- Important people in their lives who spend time with them, and who teach them to do things safely (mentors).
- Live with and be supported by caring adults.
- Provide input to the state when rules and regulations are developed that affect youth.

Work/Transportation

Vermont Youth have the right to:

- Choose a safe and healthy job, while making a fair wage.
- Accessible, reliable, and affordable transportation regardless of economic circumstances.

Home/Shelter

Vermont Youth have the right to:

- Access an affordable shelter with heating and electricity.
- A safe place with a caring family and a bed.
- Access clean, weather-appropriate clothing.
- To be protected from abuse of all kinds.

Natural Environment

Vermont Youth have a right to:

- A healthy environment that provides the basic necessities to all life.
- Know about the environment, and what is being done to it.
- Have a say about what happens to the environment.
- Safe recreation in the outdoors and in their communities.

Physical Health

Vermont Youth have a right to:

- Hygienic products, clothing, and utilities suitable for all climates and environments.
- Have access to outdoor recreational and natural spaces (e.g., parks, fields, courts, lakes, pitches, trails, paths, etc.).
- Safe and affordable health care that covers medical treatment, preventative care, reproductive health, vaccines, and intervention in the name of physical safety.
- Have sports and recreational resources for the purposes of promoting physical health and activity.
- Access to sustainable sources of clean water and food (fresh and healthy)- enough for at least two meals a day.

Education

Vermont Youth have the right to:

- Access free classes on Basic Life Skills (signing a lease, budgeting, taxes, resumes, etc.)
- Equal opportunities and experiences in Arts education before, during, and after school.
- A post-secondary education no matter their financial situation.
- A student-directed, safe space for afterschool support and community engagement free of charge.
- Time outdoors during the school (or work) day.

Justice/Equality

Vermont Youth have a right to:

- Explore their identities in a safe environment.
- Education on gun safety and to live in a gun-aware community that is educated and aware of proper gun usage.
- Have their voices heard in legal decisions that affect everyone.
- Be protected in all of their life circumstances, be able to have their own privacy in their environments, and to have a private profile.
- Education on anything concerning self-defense

On the 20th day of October
in the 17th year of the
21st Century...

Alora
 Hannah
 Chelsea Kinder
 Sara Doherty
 Eric Parker
 Maggie
 Sage Martin
 Alyssa
 Napolitano
 Athena Moreau
 Alivia Roch
 Sabrina Bann
 Warren Roberts
 Megan Stigler
 Jillian Mutter
 Alivia Emerson
 Brian Alameda
 April Truggansky
 Jessy Row
 Maura Stigler
 Adam Clark
 Sami Miller
 Jeremy Morison
 Clare John
 Kristin
 Rachel
 Julie Gtz
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