



# VSAC and State Updates

Vermont Student Assistance  
Corporation

October 2024



# VSAC services

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- Vermont grant program
  - Full-time
  - Part-time
  - Advancement grants
  - 802Opportunity
  - Microgrants
- VSAC-assisted scholarships program
- VSAC student and parent loans
- Education loan coaches
- VT529 (Vermont Higher Education Investment Plan)
- Whole-school aspiration partnerships
- Student/adult counseling
  - Talent Search
  - GEAR UP
  - Education Opportunity Center
- VSAC Resource Center (VRC)
- College/training access information services
  - Toll-free phone access
  - One-on-one appointments
  - Career and College Pathways
  - Managing College Costs Events
  - Financial Aid Application/Forms Nights

Learn more at [vsac.org](https://vsac.org)

# Workforce Development Funding



The State of Vermont offers several forgivable loan programs to encourage students to enter the Vermont workforce in specific high-demand fields.

These unique **interest-free** loans:

- Require awarded students to sign a promissory note committing to specific work obligations when they accept the funding
- Do not require payment while the student is enrolled in the applicable degree or training program
- Are “forgiven” — loan does not have to be paid back when the student meets the work obligations outlined in the promissory note they signed
- Must be repaid if the student doesn’t complete the program, doesn’t receive their license, or doesn’t work in the field in Vermont following licensure



# Pop Quiz!!

# VT Nursing Forgivable loan

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- Up to full in-state tuition at VT public institutions
- Maximum \$16,280 at Vermont private and out-of-state institutions
- Available for 1-, 2-, and 4-year and graduate nursing programs
- Vermont residents or non-residents
- Loan is forgiven if the student works full-time in Vermont in the nursing field for one year following licensure for each year of funding received

[vsac.org/nursing](https://vsac.org/nursing)



# VT Trades Forgivable Loan

- Up to full tuition (maximum \$23,000) for qualified recipients enrolled in an industry-recognized training or certification program that leads to initial employment, or career advancement, in a [sector deemed high demand](#) in Vermont.
- Up to \$2,000 for exam fees and licensing fees
- Vermont residents or non-residents
- Loan is forgiven if student works full-time in eligible field for one year following licensure or certification for each year of funding received

[vsac.org/trades](https://vsac.org/trades)



# Pop Quiz!!



# Questions

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# Dual enrollment/early college stipend

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Stipend of \$150 to offset cost of books, fees, transportation.

## Who's eligible?

- High school students enrolled in a dual enrollment course through voucher
  - Free and Reduced-Price Lunch eligible (economically disadvantaged)
  - Verified costs for books, fees, and/or transportation
- High school students enrolled in early college
  - Must file both a FAFSA and a Vermont grant application.
  - Must be eligible for a Vermont grant



# Pop Quiz!!

# Funds for training programs

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## Curtis Credential of Value Program:

- Adults or recent high school grads
- Training programs
- Up to \$3,000
- Nominated by VSAC Outreach counselor
- Must also apply for a Vermont grant (degree or Advancement Grant).

# FAFSA Completion Tool

Available through your high school's MyVSAC account at [www.vvac.org](http://www.vvac.org)

## FAFSA/VT Grant Completion Status

Totals	Number of Students	FAFSA Processed	Grant App Received
>	0	0	0

### Main Menu

[Step by Step  
Instructions](#)

[Help with CSV  
files](#)

[Download CSV  
Template](#)

[Upload Student  
Roster](#)

[View Student  
Roster](#)

[Add A  
Student](#)

[Matching  
Criteria](#)

Filters:

Show All Students

Students without FAFSA

Students without VT Grant Application

Learn more at  
[https://www.vvac.org/  
financial-aid-resources](https://www.vvac.org/financial-aid-resources)



# VSAC Assisted Scholarships

- Scholarships and Forgivable Loans for Vermonters booklet for 2025-2026 is available now
- Order online at <https://publications.vvac.org/free-vvac-publications/>
- VSAC Scholarship Deadline – February 12, 2025
- Unified Scholarship Application (USA) – available now
- Students can begin submitting any required documents



# Scholarship Document Uploader

## Colchester High School - Submit Documents

VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORP.

Graduating High School Seniors

Previously Graduated Students

**PLEASE NOTE:** VSAC is aware of an issue where previously uploaded documents are not displaying in the yellow 'Submitted Scholarship Documents' box. We are working on a solution. In the meantime, after uploading a document, look for a confirmation that the document was successfully uploaded, in the pink box that displays above the student's name. Students can also verify receipt of their required documents through their MyVSAC account.

## Submit Documents for Graduating High School Seniors

To appear on this list, the student must have:

- Completed a Unified Scholarship Application (USA) online for the upcoming school year;
- Listed your school as the school from which they will graduate on their USA; and
- Indicated they are currently a high school senior and expect to receive their diploma by the end of the current school year on their USA.

Please note:

- The lists are refreshed for the next academic year each fall when the Unified Scholarship Application (USA) becomes available.
- Students will appear on this list twice if they have submitted more than one online USA.
- Students appearing in underlined text, have uploaded documents.
  - Click on the student's name to view a list of the documents uploaded.
- VSAC will process each document as the document type selected.
  - For example: If you upload a letter under the label "Letter Non-Relative" and it is actually a Community service letter the student's application will reflect receipt of the Non-Relative letter and any scholarship that required the Community service letter will be considered incomplete.
- Applicants should refer to the scholarship description for which documents are required to complete their Unified Scholarship Application. Do not send more than one of each type of recommendation letter unless it is specifically required by the scholarship (see each scholarship description).
- Transcripts must include students name, the name of the school, and the terms for which the transcript reflects.
- Documents should be labeled with document name, applicant full name, and last four digits of their social security number.

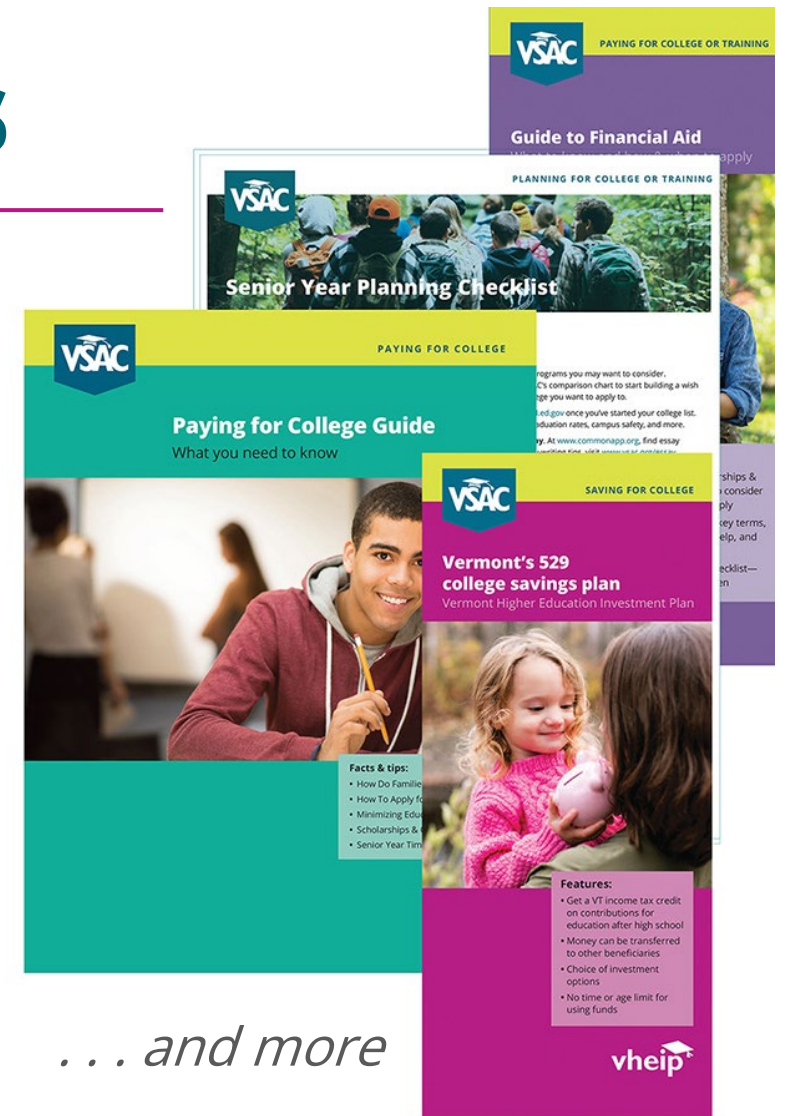
Available through  
your high school's  
MyVSAC account  
at [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org)

# VSAC publications orders

## Online order platform

- Request printed pieces for your families.
- Download digital versions for your website.
- Track pre-order or shipping status.
- Receive order reminders from VSAC.

[publications.vsac.org](https://publications.vsac.org)



... and more



# Questions

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# Vermont Transfer Guarantee

## Current Participating Institutions:

Champlain College, Champlain College Online, Norwich, St. Michael's, Vermont State University (VTSU)

## Eligibility

- An associate degree from the Community College of Vermont
- A GPA of 2.0, 2.5 or 3.0 (guaranteed admission based on GPA varies by college)

## Features

- No application fee
- Guaranteed admission
- Guaranteed transfer of credits
- Junior status upon enrollment
- Scholarship and financial incentives (varies by college)
- Over 200 different bachelor's degree programs are available under the VT Guarantee. To see eligible programs, check out: [ccv.edu/vtguarantee](http://ccv.edu/vtguarantee)



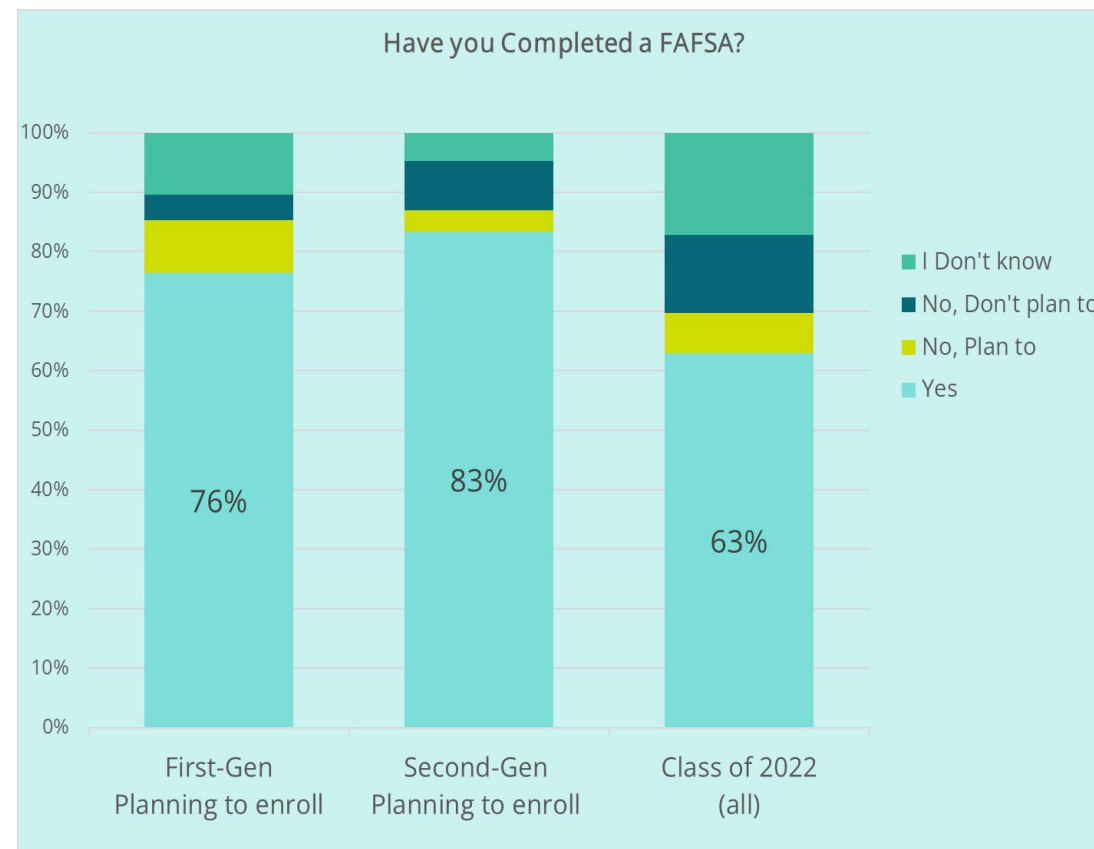
# VSAC Senior Survey & Research

## Class of 2024 School Reports

- Coming to your school soon. Typically sent to Principal and the point of contact who supporting implementing the survey at the school.

## Senior Survey Professional Learning:

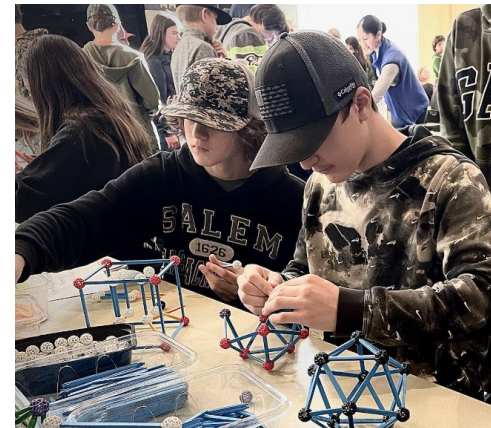
- Nov 8, 2024- VSAC (full)
- Nov 15, 2024- Lake Morey



# Fall Career Exploration Events

**October 9:** Middle schools in and around the NEK participated in day of hands-on career exploration and STEM identity building at Kingdom Career Connect & the NEK STEM Fair at VTSU Lyndon.

**October 17:** Middle schools in and around Rutland are invited to a morning of STEM identity building at the Rutland Area STEM Fair at VTSU Castleton.



# Vermont Career Connect

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Middle school career exploration event:

- **Nov 20, 10-11:15:** Virtual career panel focused on Vermont's most promising jobs. Vermont middle schools invited to participate virtually with 7th & 8th grade classrooms.
- Schools can register at <https://www.vsac.org/vermont-career-connect>

[vsac.org/vermont-career-connect](https://www.vsac.org/vermont-career-connect)

- career interest survey
- 100+ recorded career interviews
- additional career exploration resources and activities





# Pop Quiz!!

# College and Career Pathways

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## High School Events

- Workshops targeted to 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders (but open to 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> graders).
  - Landmark College: Thursday, Mar 13, 9:15am-1:45pm
  - Saint Michael's College: Thursday, Mar 20, 9:15am-1:45pm
  - VTSU Lyndon: Monday, Apr 7, 9am-1:30pm in partnership with the NEK College Fair
  - VTSU Castleton: Wednesday, Apr 9, 9am-1:45pm in partnership with the Rutland Area Guidance Counselors' College Fair
  - [collegepathways@vsac.org](mailto:collegepathways@vsac.org)

## Family Event

- Saturday, Mar 8, 1pm-5pm @ UVM Davis Center and online via Zoom
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade families - college and career readiness workshops
- All sessions will be offered in-person as well as live streamed and recorded
- More information and link to register will be available at [vsac.org/ccp](https://vsac.org/ccp) in January

# Transition and Career Conference

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## Collaboration between VSAC, AOE, VTSCA & HireAbility Vermont

**Goal:** Provide tangible tools and best practices regarding transition and career planning.

**Friday, May 2, 2025:**

- Opportunities for Vermont learners and career seekers through innovative pathways, new initiatives, and collaborations
- Lake Morey Resort
- Contact Cathy Printon: ([printon@vsac.org](mailto:printon@vsac.org))

# Essential Math for College & Careers

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- Entering 6th year of implementation.
- Designed for high school Juniors and Seniors.
- Data shows positive outcomes, despite challenges of COVID.
  - 70% of students reported feeling better about math.
  - 66% of students reported improved confidence in their math ability.
  - 70% of students reported improved math skills
- Now available for **free** on Vermont Virtual Learning Collaborative (VTVLC).
- Currently seeking schools to teach this course in AY 25-26.

[www.vsac.org/emc2](http://www.vsac.org/emc2)



# Questions

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# Helping students take the next step

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## VSAC's Student Services (GEAR UP & Talent Search)

- VSAC counselors in more than 80 Vermont middle schools and high schools, serving 3,500 students annually (+300 in postsecondary).
- Primarily serving modest-income or first-generation students and families.
- Talent Search: [vsac.org/about/our-outreach-programs/talent-search](https://vsac.org/about/our-outreach-programs/talent-search)
- GEAR UP: [vsac.org/about/our-outreach-programs/gear-up](https://vsac.org/about/our-outreach-programs/gear-up)

# VSAC Aspirations Partnerships

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Consultation with high schools over 4 years that focuses on the development of equitable post-high school planning systems. Including:

- Development of school-specific college and career planning curriculum.
- College and career programming for students and families.
- Professional learning for school staff, defined by school staff.

2024–2025:

- Currently working with Harwood Union School, Missisquoi Union School, Brattleboro Union High School, and Oxbow Union High School.
- Seeking an additional school partner for upcoming school years. (Contact Ellen Bagnato: [bagnato@vsac.org](mailto:bagnato@vsac.org))

# Helping students take the next step

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## VSAC's Adult Services (Educational Opportunity Center — EOC)

- 1:1 counseling of adults outside the public school system who have minimal access to services.
- modest-income or first-generation students without a bachelors degree
- Assists more than 1,700 adults annually.
- About 40% of participants are ages 19–27.

[www.vvac.org/plan/adult-learners](http://www.vvac.org/plan/adult-learners)

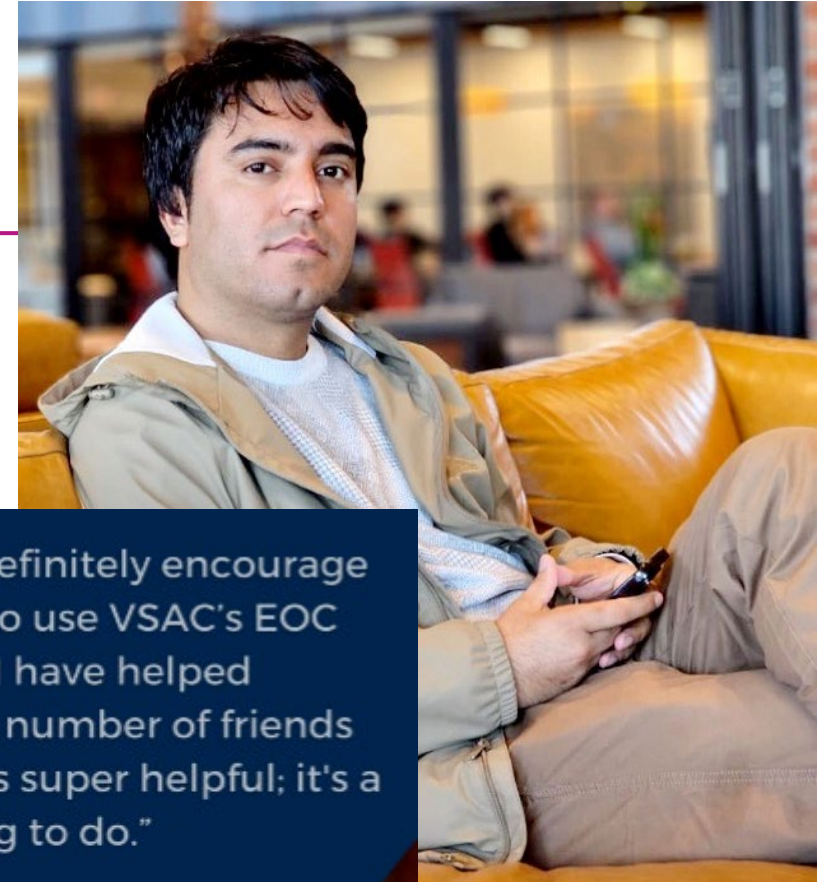
# Refugee Support Services

VSAC EOC has funding from Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) to support:

- new Afghan arrivals
- Any refugee from any country

To navigate postsecondary education and training in Vermont and leverage financial aid to pursue their goals.

[www.vvac.org/plan/adult-learners](http://www.vvac.org/plan/adult-learners)



"I would definitely encourage students to use VSAC's EOC program. I have helped connect a number of friends to EOC. It's super helpful; it's a great thing to do."

Wazir

Co-founder and Board  
President of Vermont  
Afghan Alliance



# Pop Quiz!!





# Questions

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# Thank you!

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