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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, AEL Providers, Early College Program Coordinators

FROM: Zoie Saunders, Interim Secretary of Education

SUBJECT: Adult Diploma Program and Early College Program Participation

DATE: August 15, 2024

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### Purpose

The Agency of Education (AOE) is providing guidance for all Adult Education and Literacy Providers regarding the Early College Program ([16 V.S.A. § 946](#)), regarding the eligibility of Adult Diploma Program students to access the Early College Program. The passage of the “BIG BILL – Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Act” ([H.883](#)) has repealed the High School Completion Program ([16 V.S.A. § 943](#)) effective July 1, 2024. In consequence, the Adult Diploma Program, General Educational Development Program ([16 V.S.A. § 945](#)) has been amended to read as follows:

§ 945. ADULT EDUCATION AND SECONDARY CREDENTIAL PROGRAM (a) The Secretary shall maintain an Adult Diploma Program (ADP), administered by the Agency through which any Vermont resident who is at least 16 years of age; who has not received a high school diploma; and who is **not enrolled in a public or approved independent school, postsecondary institution**, or home study program can receive a local high school diploma granted by one of the Program’s participating high schools.

These changes will affect adult learners who have in the past participated in the High School Completion Program and/or will be participating in the Adult Diploma Program who sought to avail themselves of the state’s Early College Program as a means to secondary school completion. The Early College Program is not a program available to Adult Diploma Program participants. Since a student in the Early College Program ([16 V.S.A. § 946.c](#)) must be enrolled at an institution of higher education they cannot simultaneously participate in the Adult Education and Secondary Credential Program’s Adult Diploma Program, which requires that students are not enrolled in a secondary or postsecondary institution.

