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## Defining Full-time Enrollment: Early College Courses Taken at the Same Institution

Through the Flexible Pathways Initiative, Vermont's Early College Program (ECP) allows eligible 12th grade students to enroll full-time for one academic year at one of the approved, participating higher education institutions.

[16 V.S.A. § 946](#) (c) *A student on whose behalf the Secretary makes a payment pursuant to subsection (a) of this subsection: (1) **shall be enrolled as a full-time student in the institution receiving the payment** for the academic year for which payment is made [...]* (emphasis added)

As specified in statute (excerpted above), students participating in Early College must be enrolled full-time for the entirety of the academic year at the institution who receives payment. Higher education institutions participating in the ECP have indicated in their participation agreements that courses administered through an ECP shall be included in the course catalog of the post-secondary institution and shall not differ in designation, description, or credits. The participation agreement also includes the assurance that they can provide ECP students with coursework that will satisfy both their high school graduation requirements as well as one academic year of college.

If the breadth and availability of college courses at an individual institution cannot readily meet the high school graduation requirements of the student, then consideration should be given as to whether the selected post-secondary partner can fulfill the flexible pathway for the eligible student.

Allowing ECP students to attend multiple institutions would be contrary to the statute and have reimbursement ramifications as the tuition reimbursement rate differs across institutions (e.g., CCV reimbursement rate differs from that of VTSU, Norwich, and Goddard).

