

# **Early College Program Manual**

# September 5, 2024

Issued by the Vermont Agency of Education Student Pathways Division pursuant to <u>16</u> <u>V.S.A § 946</u> of the Flexible Pathways Initiative, "Early College" means full-time enrollment by a Vermont student who is in grade <u>12</u> for one academic year in a program offered by a postsecondary institution in which the college credits apply to secondary school graduation requirements.

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# **Vermont's Early College Program (ECP)**

Through the Flexible Pathways Initiative, Vermont's Early College Program (ECP) allows eligible 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to enroll full-time for one academic year at one of the participating and approved higher education institutions. The ECP as a flexible pathway to meeting graduation requirements, simultaneously serves as a student's senior year of high school and one academic year of college, tuition free. Students who successfully complete an ECP earn colleges credits while simultaneously meeting secondary school proficiencies.

The ECP was established through the Flexible Pathways Initiative, <a href="16">16 V.S.A. § 941</a>. Students in the ECP must un-enroll from their high school and enroll as a full-time student in the postsecondary institution. Upon completion of the college spring semester, students must re-enroll in their high school in order to receive a high school diploma. Secondary schools are therefore responsible for helping eligible students prepare for Early College as part of the PLP process, ensuring the college coursework satisfies graduation requirements and appears on the high school transcript, and awarding the high school diploma.

#### **Early College Program Postsecondary Partners**

The following colleges are approved to offer Early College Programs. Though this is a statewide program, application processes, academic calendars, and course credits are determined by each higher education institution. For more information about each partnering school, including any additional costs/fees, deadlines for application, room and board (if applicable), visit the college websites linked below.

Community College of Vermont

**Norwich University** 

**Vermont State University** 

# **Vermont Academy of Science and Technology Program**

The Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) Early College Program is an approved independent school operated by Vermont State University (Randolph or Williston campuses only) exclusively open to high school seniors. Students who are eligible for reimbursement under the Vermont Early College Program must be approved for Early College as part of their Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) during their junior year (11<sup>th</sup> grade) at either a Vermont public high school, or a high school to which their district of residence pays tuition on their behalf.

VAST students have the option to receive a high school diploma from VAST or from VAST <u>and</u> their 11<sup>th</sup> grade high school. If they choose to receive their prior school diploma, they will need to re-enroll in that school to receive the diploma. For more information about VAST at VTSU check the <u>Vermont State University</u> website.

# **Management of the Program**

The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) has oversight of the Early College Program, 16 V.S.A. § 946, and maintains procedures to ensure program and policy updates are current and upheld across all partners.

#### **Early College Partnership Agreement Forms**

Early College Participation Agreement forms must be submitted to the Agency of Education with appropriate signatures on an annual basis. Partnering schools typically receive the agreement forms via email from the AOE in February and they are also linked on the Early College Website.

#### **Legislative Reporting** (16 V.S.A. § 947)

Early College Program partners must submit an annual report to the Legislature every January. Each college must report on the following items: the level of participation in the institution's Early College Program, the success in achieving the stated goals of the program to enhance secondary students' educational experiences and prepare them for success in college and beyond, and the specific outcomes for participating students relating to programmatic goals.

#### Reimbursement

Consistent with 16 V.S.A. § 946, higher education institutions participating in the VT Early College Program are reimbursed a maximum of 87 percent of the annual base education amount provided that when making a payment under this subdivision; the Secretary shall not pay more than the tuition charged by the institution. All colleges will be paid per their announced credit hour or general tuition rate unless it exceeds the base rate calculation. The state shall make the payment directly to the postsecondary institution, which will accept the amount as full payment of the student's tuition.

### **Early College Program Waiver**

Early College Program waivers to drop below full-time status will be considered by the AOE on a case-by-case basis. If a student drops below full-time status for any unforeseen circumstance, the <a href="Early College Program Waiver">Early College Program Waiver</a> must be completed by the postsecondary institution and submitted to the AOE in order to determine whether the request to continue the program in a part-time status is approved. This includes students who withdraw at any time including between semesters.

### **Students and Families**

In this section students and families can find information about eligibility requirements, program readiness, and ECP participation processes. This information is organized according to secondary school programming options, general considerations for all

eligible students, students enrolled in high school, and students enrolled in Home Study programs.

#### **Student Eligibility and Readiness**

#### **Student Eligibility**

Students are eligible to access the Early College Program if they:

- Are a resident of Vermont
- Are a 12th grade student
- Have permission from their high school principal or from the AOE if they are a Home Study student.
- Have the Early College element written into their Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) (For Home Study, the student and parent or guardian are responsible for developing their <u>MCOS/PLP</u>, which serves as their PLP.) and must be submitted to the Agency of Education.
- Are not enrolled in a school maintained by the district or a student for whom the district pays tuition to a public or approved independent school.

#### Readiness

The criteria and process for determining if a student is ready for postsecondary classes is determined by the high school in partnership with the appropriate post-secondary institution. To support planning and preparedness for the ECP, refer to the Flexible Pathways Toolkit designed to support a consistent process for students and their advisors to determine how a flexible pathway opportunity fits within a student's personalized learning plan (PLP) (e.g., short and long-term goals, action steps, and potential supports) as a pathway to high school completion.

#### Limitations

Since the Early College Program is designed to replace a student's senior year, Dual Enrollment Program vouchers and/or Fast Forward tickets may not be used at the same time students are enrolled in ECP. Dual Enrollment Program vouchers and/or Fast Forward tickets may be used PRIOR to Early College but not during or after Early College completion. Additionally, a student enrolled in a Career Technical Education (CTE) program cannot be concurrently enrolled in ECP and CTE as CTE programs are funded by the student's district of residence.

#### **Eligible Early College Coursework**

Remedial coursework offered by a college is not eligible for Early College Program funding. These courses do not apply toward college graduation requirements. High schools should develop programming independent of the Vermont Early College Program that supports students in need of remedial or developmental coursework to

achieve college readiness. (NOTE: Courses offered through the <u>Vermont Virtual</u> <u>Learning Cooperative</u> are an available source of programming for this purpose.)

#### **Expectations and Requirements**

Students in the Early College Program are expected to maintain full-time status at the college or university they are attending. Dropping below full-time status without approval of an <a href="Early College Program Waiver">Early College Program Waiver</a> form will result in the student losing eligibility to participate in Early College. Students should work with their high school counselor and with a student support specialist at the college or university to find supports to be successful in their Early College year.

Early College means **full-time enrollment** by a 12th grade Vermont student for **one complete academic year** at a participating postsecondary institution in which the credits earned apply to secondary school graduation requirements.

The AOE has defined **full-time enrollment** as being enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits each semester. A typical courseload for an ECP student is between 12-16 credits each semester. It is not recommended that ECP students enroll in more than 16 credits in a given semester unless careful consideration has been made and both the high school and postsecondary institution believe it is in the student's best interest.

The goal of the program is that all students successfully complete Early College and reenroll at their sending high school to receive their diploma. As a result, decisions about
the credit load to be undertaken in college should be made, and revised as necessary,
through the PLP development/management process. The secondary school is
responsible for ensuring that a successfully completed plan will result in
graduation. The postsecondary institution is responsible for delivering services
in accordance with the plan. Any proposed deviation from the plan should be cause
for a plan review and subsequent approval of that revised plan by the plan partners (i.e.,
student, high school, parent/guardian).

# **Participation Process**

The following process outlines general steps that apply to secondary school partners and students. High School students must have Early College (ECP) written into their Personalized Learning Plan (PLP). To support planning for Early College, refer to the Flexible Pathways Toolkit which is designed to support a consistent process for students and their advisors to determine how a flexible pathway opportunity fits within a student's short and long-term goals, how they can prepare for those learning experiences, and to identify the supports they may need to be successful.

- High School students must have Early College Program (ECP) written into their <u>Personalized Learning Plan (PLP)</u> to ensure alignment with their goals and action steps towards secondary school completion and postsecondary transition plans.
- Students must receive permission and support from their high school principal (or in the case of Home Study students the AOE).

- Note: When principals approve participation in ECP, they agree to waive any senior- year mandated courses, projects, or requirements that would only be accessible to enrolled students. It is incumbent on the approving secondary school to ensure the student's intended ECP coursework is in alignment with the school's graduation requirements.
- Students apply for admission at one of the post-secondary institutions approved as an Early College Program provider.
- Students must enroll in courses full-time for both the fall and spring semesters.
- Courses must satisfy any remaining high school graduation requirements so that students are able to graduate from high school following the Spring semester of their ECP.
- Students must unenroll from high school and/or Home Study program prior to beginning ECP course work.
- Students must re-enroll in high school after their ECP experience has concluded.
- Students graduate from their high school and receive their diploma.

#### **Specific Information for Home Study Students**

- Home Study students in ECP do not need to re-enroll in the Home Study program because the Home Study program does not issue diplomas. Home Study students in the Vermont Technical College VAST program will receive a diploma from VAST.
- Every Home Study student who wants to participate in the ECP must submit Home Study Enrollment Forms .
- Every student who wants to participate in ECP must submit to the AOE a
  Personalized Learning Plan (PLP). The MCOS can serve as a student's PLP and
  must include how the ECP courses will align with and advance their education
  goals.
  - Personalized Learning Plan Process for Home Study Students
  - o Personalized Learning Plan Form for Home Study Students
- A Home Study student and the student's parent or guardian shall be solely responsible for developing a MCOS/PLP.
- Students seeking to participate in the Early College Program will apply directly
  with colleges in the spring of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year (third year of high school level
  work), and then will need to unenroll from Home Study prior to beginning
  coursework.

# **Secondary School Partners**

This section provides information about secondary school partnership responsibilities, ECP resources, student supports and services information, and options for schools to

consider with regard to the development and implementation of Early College programming and policies within the supervisory union/district and school.

### **Secondary School Partnership Expectations**

All secondary schools must agree to a set of expectations to be eligible to participate in the ECP. For a full list of expectations please see the <u>Secondary Dual Enrollment</u>, <u>Fast Forward and Early College Participation Agreement</u>. Any secondary school that does not agree to any of these expectations will prevent their students from participating in an ECP.

### **Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs)**

A PLP is defined in 16 V.S.A. § 942 (10) as:

Documentation of an evolving plan developed on behalf of a student in an ongoing process involving a secondary student, a representative of the school, and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardian and updated at least annually by November 30; provided however, that a Home Study student and the student's parent or guardian shall be solely responsible for developing a plan.

The process of developing and updating a PLP reflects the discussions and collaborations of a student and involved adults. When students engage in the PLP process, they assume an active role in the planning, assessment, and reflection required to identify developmentally appropriate academic, social, and career goals.

The plan shall define the scope and rigor of academic and experiential opportunities necessary for a secondary student to complete secondary school successfully, attain postsecondary readiness, and be prepared to engage actively in civic life.

Participation in the ECP requires that a student's PLP identifies ECP as part of the exploration of career and college readiness. PLP resources, and tools to assist schools in the implementation of PLPs, are available on the Agency of Education's <a href="Personalized Learning Webpage">Personalized Learning Webpage</a>.

### **Special Education Services**

Students on an IEP who participate in the Early College Program are no longer eligible to receive special education services from their sending high school as they are required to unenroll per 16 V.S.A § 946. Students with disabilities may be provided reasonable accommodations through a 504 Plan or ADA Plan that allows equal access. If you have questions about accommodations available at a specific college/university, please contact the school directly. Colleges will typically not provide modifications to change course content or performance expectations that would substantially alter the essential elements of their courses. Students must be aware that not all accommodations available at a high school will be available or allowed in college

courses. Below are some links that may be useful, and we recommend also contacting the college's office of student support services in order to find out more information.

- Early College Program Options for Students and Families
- <u>Developmental Disabilities Services Division: Postsecondary Education</u>
   Opportunities
- Early College Program: Disability Services Contact Information

#### **ECP and Free & Reduced Lunch**

Students who have qualified for free and/or reduced lunch in the past, who participate in the Early College Program are no longer eligible to receive free or reduced lunch from their sending high school as they are required to unenroll per 16 V.S.A § 946.

#### **ECP and Extra-Curricular Activities**

The high school and/or college is responsible for making the final determination of ECP students participating in extra-curricular activities at their respective school. In order to assist schools and LEAs in decision making processes that are equitable for all students, the Agency of Education has published a <a href="VT Flexible Pathways Profile Tool">VT Flexible Pathways Profile Tool</a>. This tool is designed to ensure all students are considered when implementing local ECP policies that are effective, equitable, safe, and compliant. Additionally, the <a href="VT Principals Association (VPA)">VT Principals Association (VPA)</a> also provides extra-curricular activity resources available on their webpage.

### **ECP and Career Technical Education (CTE) Programs**

The co-enrollment of high school students in Early College and secondary CTE is not allowed. A student who is enrolled in an Early College Program cannot be concurrently enrolled in a secondary school program, such as CTE, in which tuition is paid with public funds on the student's behalf. This ensures compliance with <a href="16">16 V.S.A. § 946</a> and further ensures that the State is not engaging in policy inconsistent with law and rule, as well as engaging in practices inherently inequitable to all students. <a href="Memo: Early College and CTE Enrollment Requests">Memo: Early College and CTE Enrollment Requests</a>

#### **Financial Aid and Assistance**

#### **Scholarships**

The Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (<u>VSAC</u>) helps Vermont students of all ages save, plan, and pay for college and career training. Below are a few guidelines to support your work with students interested in an ECP that may need financial assistance.

 VSAC Scholarships identify high school students who can answer in the affirmative to the question "I am a high school senior."

 VSAC's scholarships booklet contains information that is updated each fall. The VSAC scholarship booklet contains both VSAC-assisted scholarships and scholarships administered directly by the group sponsoring the scholarship.

#### **Financial Aid**

While Early College students receive their first year of college tuition-free, students and families must pay their housing and meals (if they choose to live on campus), books, supplies, and fees. Students do not have access to federal financial aid during Early College. However, high school students with financial need can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Vermont State Grant application to qualify for a need-based (income-contingent) Vermont Basic Incentive Grant (VSAC Grant) of up to \$1,000 which is dispersed to the institution from the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC). Students who qualify for the VSAC Grant also automatically qualify for a stipend of \$150 per semester. After the college verifies enrollment, the stipend is mailed directly to the student to cover the cost of books, fees, travel expenses, etc. There is now a question on the Vermont Grant application where students can indicate that they are enrolled in an Early College Program. Answering this question will help VSAC determine eligibility for the student. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact the VSAC Grant Department at 802-654-3750 or 800-882-4166.

### **Transferring of Credits to other Colleges/Universities**

There is no guarantee that credits will transfer from college to college, whether in-state or out-of-state. Some colleges and universities provide a tool that allows students to determine if credits will transfer. An example of this is <a href="UVM">UVM's Transfer Guide</a>. It is incumbent upon the student to do their own research in advance to determine if courses and their credits will transfer to other colleges.

A conversation should occur with the student (and family) about which courses the student wants to take if they are deciding on attending the Early College Program. The courses and their credits may or may not transfer to other college/universities depending on what their transfer policy is. It is recommended that students and their school counselors contact the college or university the student is interested in attending to determine if courses and their credits will transfer and/or what the student will need to submit as supplemental information, if necessary.

# **Post-Secondary Partners**

This section provides information about post-secondary partnership responsibilities, ECP policies, funding, and invoicing and reimbursement processes.

# **Post-Secondary Partnership Responsibilities**



Post-secondary institutions must agree annually to the state's <u>Early College Program Higher Education Agreement</u>. These responsibilities include statements regarding program eligibility, available courses, grade reporting, and other general expectations.

### **Early College Program Tuition**

The state shall make the payment directly to the postsecondary institution, which will accept the amount as full payment of the student's tuition. For each 12th grade Vermont student enrolled, the State will pay an amount up to 87 percent of the base education amount to an Early College program that is developed and operated or overseen by one of the Vermont State Colleges, or an accredited private post-secondary school located in Vermont and that is approved for operation by the Secretary.

The base education amount is established in the annual state budget. The Secretary will not pay an institution more than what they regularly charge. This amount is intended to cover tuition for both semesters, not each. The CCV tuition rate, is dependent on the number of credits and may not exceed 87% of the base education amount. Current Fiscal Year rates are posted on the Agency of Education's <u>Early College website</u>.

### **Invoicing**

#### **Invoicing Deadlines**

Per signed agreement, the postsecondary institution will meet the following deadlines for invoicing:

- Fall Semester November 15 by the close of business day
- Spring Semester April 15 by the close of business day

If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday, invoices should be submitted on the last business day prior to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Invoices received after the close of business day on the above dates will not be reimbursed from the Agency of Education and any costs incurred will be covered by the post-secondary institution (not the student or parent).

#### **Invoicing and Add/Drop Periods**

- 1. If a student unenrolls from the program before the add/drop period, then NO invoice should be submitted to the AOE.
- 2. If a student withdraws from the program after the add/drop period, then YES, an invoice should be submitted to the AOE.

#### **Invoice Instructions**

Information regarding how to complete the invoicing process is on the <u>AOE Early</u> <u>College webpage</u> under the College/University Resources section. Participating colleges should submit completed invoices via SFTP to the institutions invoice folder using the following resources.

- SFTP File Transfer and Submission Instructions for ECP
- Early College Invoice Spreadsheet

#### What Happens if a Student Falls Below Full-time Status?

If a student is not considered a full-time student by dropping below full-time status, then the student should be unenrolled from the Early College Program. If an Early College student drops below full-time status or withdraws during or between semesters, due to any unforeseen, extenuating circumstances, the <a href="Early College Program Waiver">Early College Program Waiver</a> form must be completed by the post-secondary institution for consideration of continuation in part-time status or withdrawal. Once the form has been completed, it must be submitted to the Agency of Education for review and approval. Once the decision has been made, all high school and college/university contacts will be notified.

If a student falls below full-time status, they have the option to use their two Dual Enrollment vouchers (if they have not already used them) to cover the cost of at least two courses.

The AOE will pay tuition in full for each semester unless it is determined that it must be pro-rated. The AOE will determine if the invoice amount should be pro-rated after consultation with the relevant institution.

### FAQ's

# Q1. How do students apply for an ECP? Is there a deadline? Where can I find this information?

Students will need their principal or headmaster's approval to apply for participation in an ECP. Once they have received approval, the student would apply and go through the college's enrollment process established by the college. For a list of colleges approved for the Early College Program and the contact information, visit the <u>AOE Early College Program webpage</u>.

#### Q2. What are the admissions requirements for an ECP student?

Each college has its own admissions requirements that can be found on their website. ECP students will be held to the same standards as other students seeking admission to that college. In addition to the college admissions requirements, students must have Early College as an element of their PLP and have the approval of their principal or headmaster's.

# Q3. Who will grant the ECP student a high school diploma? (What name will appear on the transcript?)

ECP students will graduate from their sending high school and receive a diploma from that high School. Students in VAST ECP, can receive a diploma from VAST (as it is an approved independent school), their sending high school, or both.

# Q4. Who ensures that the classes that an ECP student takes will qualify for high school graduation?

The ECP student, high school guidance counselor/advisor/principal, and the college coordinator work together to ensure that the courses taken at the college complete any remaining high school graduation requirements.

# Q5. Can the ECP student take any courses at the college including online courses?

ECP students enroll in courses offered by the college through their published course catalog. ECP students may be required to take orientation courses that are required for all first-year college students at that college and may be required to take courses for a major that has specific requirements as determined by the academic department directors and/or registrar (e.g., nursing). Any changes that ECP students make to their course selection must be approved by the high school guidance counselor and the college coordinator to ensure alignment with high school graduation requirements.

### Q6. Are ECP students required to live on campus?

ECP students are not required to live on campus. Many ECPs do not offer residential options for Early College students. If a student needs housing, the student should speak to their college coordinator. ECP students will be responsible for getting themselves to and from the college for classes or other activities.

#### Q7. Are all costs covered?

Only the cost of college tuition is covered. All other college costs such as student support services, room, and board (if applicable), and course materials including books and lab fees are billed to the student.

# Q8. Are ECP students graded in the same way as other college students in the course?

ECP students are held to the same grading standards and assessments (e.g., papers, portfolios, quizzes, labs, etc.) as other students enrolled in that college level course.

# Q9. Can students return to their high school during the add/drop period if they realize that college is not for them?

Yes. There should be a team at the high school to discuss necessary transition planning and re-enrollment processes with the student.

# Q10. Does a student have to pass all their classes to be eligible to continue in the spring semester?

No. If a student is failing a college class – they are considered college students and therefore subject to the college policies (e.g., academic probation, etc.). Note: The college will need to consult with the high school contact, to determine impact on completion of graduation requirements.

# Q11. What if a high school has a student who is currently a junior, but they have met all their graduation requirements, should they graduate early, or would that student be eligible for Early College next year?

It is the local school decision whether the student graduates early or returns for a senior year to continue their education. As long as the student has not received their diploma, they remain eligible for an ECP.

# Q12. Can an ECP student repeat a course for a better grade (either taken through ECP or DEP)?

Yes. All parties, the college, high school, and student, must agree. They should discuss how repeating a course will fit into the students PLP and meet their high school graduation requirements. For example, does the student risk missing a graduation requirement by repeating a course instead of taking a different course?

Q13. Can an ECP student (Home Study) use their second DE voucher to take a summer course following their EC year if their graduation date is not officially until August? Dual Enrollment vouchers are meant to be used prior to the Early College year. Home Study students are no longer eligible when their Home Study plan with the state expires and is not renewed. Most Home Study plans are good for one year – unless they are renewed. Plans are valid from July 1 – June 30; therefore, any plans in place now will end on July 1. This would make them ineligible for use of the second voucher in August.

Q14. If a student wishes to enroll in more than 30 credits during their ECP year, can they pay out of pocket for the additional credits?



Yes. Some college allow for more than 15 credits to be taken and still qualify for full-time status. If student elect to go beyond what the college allows, they may be required to pay additional tuition fees. The AOE does not advise ECP students to take more than five courses per semester (15-16 credits).

# Q15. What are the steps for students who are interested in participating in the Early College Program?

Students who are interested in the Early College Program must have Early College as an element of their PLP, have the approval of the principal at their high school, and must be academically ready for college classes.

If the principal has approved the student, the student can then apply to one of the ECP partnering colleges. Once accepted into the college, the student will need to unenroll from the high school, be enrolled as full-time student at the college, and will be responsible for any applicable fees and textbook costs.

The student will re-enroll at their high school following the conclusion of their Early College Program to receive their high school diploma.

#### Q16. What is a Personalized Learning Plan?

Statute states that a Personalized Learning Plan (PLP) "...shall be developmentally appropriate and shall reflect the student's emerging abilities, aptitude, and disposition. The plan shall define the scope and rigor of academic and experiential opportunities necessary for a secondary student to complete secondary school successfully, attain postsecondary readiness, and be prepared to engage in civic life." For a student in high school, the high school develops and maintains the plan. For a Home Study student, the parent or guardian is responsible for developing and maintaining the PLP.

#### Q17. How easy is it for students to amend their PLPs as their interests change?

Statute requires a minimum yearly review. The AOE recommends that the review process be continuous and updates to the PLP be made based on student need. Both the <u>Conceptual Framework for Adults</u> and the <u>Conceptual Framework for Students</u> describe how it can be helpful for students to review their plan with greater frequency.

#### Q18. Does college faculty know that these students are high school students?

No. College faculty do not know they are high school students unless the student discloses that information.



# Q19. Can students participate in our JROTC program as an Early College student?

If a student is in an Early College Program and they are involved in JROTC in the high school, then the high school would need to agree to let the student continue in JROTC (as the student is unenrolled from high school) and include this in the student's PLP.

If the student is in an Early College Program and they want to participate in ROTC at the college, then yes, the student can do that, as this would be part of the student's college experience.

# Q20. Are students still eligible for extra-curricular activities when enrolled in the Early College Program?

The high school and/or college is responsible for making the final determination of ECP students participating in extra-curricular activities at their respective school. In order to assist schools and LEAs in decision making processes that are equitable for all students, the Agency of Education has published a <a href="VT Flexible Pathways Profile Tool">VT Flexible Pathways Profile Tool</a>. This tool is designed to ensure all students are considered when implementing local ECP policies that are effective, equitable, safe, and compliant. Additionally, the <a href="VT Principals Association (VPA)">VT Principals Association (VPA)</a> also provides extra-curricular activity resources available on their webpage.

# Q21. Would a student be eligible for ECP if they are a deferred action student and are not a US citizen but are enrolled at the high school?

If the student (whether a legal or undocumented alien) is residing in Vermont, then the student is considered a legal pupil with all the same rights and privileges afforded to any other legal pupil in the state.

# Q22. May a Vermont Home Study student participate in the Early College Program?

If the student is enrolled in a registered Home Study program pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 166b, during their junior year equivalent then they would be eligible to participate in an ECP.

### Q23. Do Home Study students who complete an ECP receive a diploma?

Since a Home Study student does not have a sending high school, he/she will not receive a high school diploma except for students in the VAST program, which is an approved independent school and can grant high school diplomas. The Home Study student will receive a transcript of earned credits from the Early College Program.

#### Resources

#### **Students & Families**

Vermont AOE Early College Webpage

VT Flexible Pathways Toolkit

VSAC's scholarships booklet

Conceptual Framework for Students:

**VSAC Financial Aid for Students** 

<u>Developmental Disabilities Services Division: Postsecondary Education Opportunities</u>

Early College Program: Disability Services Contact Information

#### **College Partner Websites**

Community College of Vermont

**Norwich University** 

**Vermont State University** 

### **Secondary Schools**

Vermont AOE Early College Webpage

Participation Agreement Form Preview

Participation Agreement Form Preview for Non-Operating Districts

VT Flexible Pathways Toolkit

**VSAC** website

VSAC Scholarship FAQ for High School Teachers

Early College Program Waiver

Developmental Disabilities Services Division: Postsecondary Education Opportunities

Early College Program: Disability Services Contact Information

#### **Post-Secondary Partners**

Vermont AOE Early College Webpage

Dual Enrollment and Early College Rate Information FY25

Early College Program HE Agreement Memo

Early College Program Waiver

