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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Jess DeCarolis, Division Director, Student Pathways Division

CC: Miranda Scott, High School Completion and Credential Programs Coordinator and Robin Castle, State Director of Adult Education and Literacy, Student Pathways Division

SUBJECT: High School Completion Program Repeal - FY25 Transition Year

DATE: June 10, 2024

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### Purpose

This memo serves as notification of the repeal of the High School Completion Program (HSCP) pursuant to of Act 113 of 2024 and describes the transition period to the Adult Diploma Program (ADP) and its impact on HSCP students when the program sunsets on June 30, 2024.

### Background

The High School Completion Program under [16 V.S.A. § 943](#) was a school district program under the Flexible Pathways Initiative that provided access for those Vermonters 16 years of age and older who met eligibility requirements to earn a high school diploma. HSCP partnering high schools worked with local Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) providers and the student to create a personalized learning plan that described how they would meet their partnering high school's graduation requirements. This program was available to enrolled-in-school and unenrolled Vermont adults.

Act 78 of 2023 created a committee to evaluate access to adult education and the HSCP and make recommendations to improve access and the quality of adult education. In response to the [legislative report from the Adult Education and Literacy Student Access Committee, H.883 \(now Act 113\)](#) repealed HSCP and made changes to the ADP under [16 V.S.A. §945](#) which describes state components of adult education and literacy programs. The ADP is a program:

*“ . . . 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.”*



## Transition Period

The HSCP is repealed effective July 1, 2024 and those adult education students seeking a high school diploma will be able to earn a diploma through the State's Adult Diploma Program. To support this transition, partnering high schools and local AEL providers must work together to honor the HSCP personalized learning plans for students who are expected to meet graduation requirements by **September 1, 2024**.

Prior to the passage of Act 113, AEL providers were asked to identify students in the High School Completion Program who had anticipated graduation dates before September 1, 2024. Students eligible to earn a diploma through the HSCP within this transition period must be on the Agency of Education's (AOE) **list that will be sent to the district partnering schools and will continue to:**

- Participate in Dual Enrollment summer semester classes as described in their PLP;
- Receive services as described in their PLP; and
- Be eligible to earn a high school diploma under the HSCP if they meet the graduation requirements and elements of the program as described in the [HSCP policy manual](#) (e.g., if needed, a [Request to Graduate](#) form may be submitted to the AOE at least 60 days prior to the expected graduation date).

The AOE will send a letter to each HSCP partnering high school that has one or more HSCP students who may be finishing their graduation pathway between July 1, 2024 and August 31, 2024. Schools should review this list of students who plan to graduate in July or August and their personalized learning plans and contact Miranda Scott at [miranda.scott@vermont.gov](mailto:miranda.scott@vermont.gov) with any concerns they may have about this transition period and/or discrepancies related to students assigned to their district or school.

## HSCP Transcripts

All transcripts of HSCP students must be maintained by the school that issued the diploma in perpetuity. This includes transcripts of those students who were not enrolled in the school or who graduated through the Request to Graduate process (those graduating with skills assessed below NRS 5). If the student graduated from the school, the transcript must be maintained by that school without exception.

## Adult Diploma Program (ADP)

All HSCP partnering school personnel should be alerted that changes to the newly described Adult Diploma Program are underway and a new program will be piloted beginning September 1, 2024. Representatives from districts, high schools, and AEL providers will be assisting the AOE in designing and developing policy for the ADP. This group will identify statewide proficiency-based requirements (PBRGs) based on existing state PBGR hierarchies and the assessments that will be used to determine that these proficiencies have been met.