

Report on Act 176 for FY09
An Act Relating to the High School
Completion Program

Report to the Senate and House Committees on Education
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Submitted by:



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Report on the High School Completion Program (FY09)

The High School Completion Program, established by Act 176 as enacted in 2006, has experienced success over its first three years as measured by participation rates, completion rates and its impact on the adult education system and high school partners. The most important beneficiaries of this new program are the students it serves.

During its first year, the High School Completion Program worked with 175 youth to complete their high school education, earn a diploma, and transition to career or higher education. In the second year (FY08) there were 436 active students in the program. During FY09 there were 576 active students. That represents a significant reduction of the number of unengaged drop-outs and associated social costs, and an increase of high school graduates prepared to take their place as productive citizens. There were 159 graduates during FY09 and an additional 50 earned their diploma during the first two quarters of FY10. Over the three and a half year life of the program, 1102 young adults have been re-engaged in pursuit of educational goals and 389 have now earned their high school diploma.

It is important to note that graduation education plans are not written simply for the purpose of earning credits needed for a high school diploma. The beginning point of plan development is the determination of a student's skill in reading, writing and math, as well as the student's goals. Successful completion of a well-written plan should result in a high school diploma, and the skills necessary to transition to post-secondary experience.

The program has also had an impact on the quality of services provided. Effective practices established in this program have been put to use throughout the adult education system with great success. Relationships between adult education providers and high schools have evolved as a result of the partnerships created by this program.

During FY09, \$2,788,156 was expended through the High School Completion Program. Of that total, \$2,121,624 (76%) went to adult education providers. High school partners received \$421,775 (15%), and other providers received \$244,757 (9%).

The adult education and literacy system has benefited from the establishment of the High School Completion Program. The program has become self-supporting, and if the appropriation for this program is allowed to grow with the growth in participation, then reimbursement funds will be sufficient to maintain the necessary infrastructure. At the conclusion of each fiscal year, the reimbursement schedule and eligibility expectations have been revised with the goal of using available funds as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Under statute in effect during FY09, students could not be enrolled in high school and participate in the High School Completion Program. Because of this requirement adult education providers did not counsel potential students until they had officially ended their high school enrollment. In some cases, high school officials referred students to an adult education provider as part of the process to end enrollment. Upon successful completion of a graduation education plan, a student enrolled in the high school serving as the plan partner, and received a diploma from that high school.

Vermont Department of Education

As a result of legislation passed during the 2009 session, enrolled students became eligible to participate in this program as of July 1, 2009. It is anticipated that this change will have a significant short-term impact on the number of participants. However, over time it is expected that this change, in combination with other transformative initiatives, will reduce the number of unenrolled participants. Through the first two quarters of FY10, 37 enrolled students have entered the High School Completion Program.

HSCP Reimbursements FY09

	AEL Provider	District/ Tech	Other Providers	Total	Students Served	Grads
FY09 Q1						
CVABE	31,794	32,833	7,748	72,375	29	0
NEKLS	48,517	9,869	6,339	64,725	38	3
TTC	10,881	1,624	1,072	13,577	6	0
VAL	236,920	32,155	53,156	322,231	187	12
Q Total	328,112	76,481	68,315	472,908	260	15
FY09 Q2						
CVABE	51,494	52,448	4,265	108,207	50	0
NEKLS	58,366	3,302	1,616	63,284	42	2
TTC	37,601	4,631	60	42,292	16	1
VAL	370,980	37,451	28,664	437,095	249	10
Q Total	518,441	97,832	34,605	650,878	357	13
FY09 Q3						
CVABE	84,069	47,738	9,770	141,577	78	0
NEKLS	86,895	9,032	15,849	111,776	53	1
TTC	45,040	4,885	3,620	53,545	21	1
VAL	399,460	50,809	61,593	511,862	269	6
Q Total	615,464	112,464	90,832	818,760	421	8
FY09 Q4						
CVABE	124,228	85,435	10,369	220,032	87	53
NEKLS	94,122	11,770	6,172	112,064	57	17
TTC	43,661	3,217	1,328	48,206	21	7
VAL	397,596	34,576	33,136	465,308	258	46
Q Total	659,607	134,998	51,005	845,610	423	123
Year Total	2,121,624 (76%)	421,775 (15%)	244,757 (9%)	2,788,156	576	159

High School Completion Program FY09 High School Partner Participation

High School	# grad plans	# grads	\$ to HS	High School	# grad plans	# grads	\$ to HS
Arlington	2		827	Missisquoi Valley	26		8712
Bellows Falls	3		1299	Montpelier	14	13	75823
Bellows Free Academy	18		4400	Morristown	13	7	5196
Bethel	2	1	199	Mt. Abraham	10		3295
Black River	8	4	5023	Mt. Anthony	23	8	12912
Blue Mountain	6	2	3116	Mt. Mansfield	7	3	2942
Brattleboro	16	4	8410	North Country	31	8	16249
Burke	1		400	Northfield	7	7	8347
Burlington	81	18	26994	Otter Valley	2		400
Canaan	4	1	3841	Oxbow	5	1	2233
Champlain Valley	5	1	2318	Poultney	1		400
Colchester	10	5	4667	Proctor	3		1200
Craftsbury	1	1	274	Randolph	13	8	103181
East Haven	1		400	Rochester	2		800
Enosburg	15		10560	Royalton	8	2	1953
Essex Comm Ed Ctr	12	7	10270	Rutland	16	2	5797
Fair Haven	1		400	South Burlington	11	3	11655
Fairfax	9		1799	Spaulding	11	5	7790
Green Mountain	3		3200	Springfield	23	5	8379
Hartford	20	2	4505	St. Johnsbury	4		1043
Harwood	8	3	5166	Stowe	2	1	658
Hazen	4	1	1027	Twinfield	2	2	1502
Lake Region	15	1	3363	U-32	1		400
Lamoille	11	5	5771	Vergennes	5	1	1213
Leland & Gray	9	2	4805	Waterford	1	1	283
Lyndon	12	8	4345	West Rutland	7	4	3097
Middlebury	2	1	880	Williamstown	4	1	1950
Mill River	12	3	3666	Windsor	14	1	4425
Millers Run	1		844	Winooski	6		1600
Milton	9	5	4459	Woodstock	3	1	1112
				total	576	159	421775