



# TODAY'S STUDENTS in Vermont

Only **50% of working-age Vermonters** hold a postsecondary credential. **Why?** In part, because today's students are changing. They are juggling work, family, and other life responsibilities like no generation before them.

## RESPONSIBILITY

**33%**

are  
**30 or OLDER**

**25%**

are  
**PARENTS**

**80%**

**WORK** and  
**25% WORK**  
**FULL-TIME**

## SECURITY



**52%**

receive little to no  
**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**  
from families



**35%**

experience  
**FOOD INSECURITY**



**33%**

experience  
**HOUSING INSECURITY**

## FLEXIBILITY

**55%** **COMMUTE**

**38%** attend **ONLINE**

**29%** attend **PART-TIME**

## IDENTITY

**40%**  
are  
**FIRST GENERATION**  
**STUDENTS**

**13%**  
are  
**NEW**  
**AMERICANS**

**10%** are **VETERANS** or  
**ACTIVE DUTY**

**Support today's students, today.**



# SOLUTIONS

Today's students deserve modern and innovative policy, programming, and support services in order to fulfill their postsecondary goals. To successfully complete education and training programs while juggling life's other challenges, students need support at the institutional, community, state, and federal levels. To ensure the strongest education and career outcomes for Vermonters, the state's education and workforce development system must adapt.

## POLICY

State policy must ensure that Vermonters from all backgrounds can access, afford, and attain postsecondary education and training – at all stages of life. The state must advance policies that make postsecondary education more affordable, support the unique needs of adult learners and those who have been historically underserved by the postsecondary system, align education and workforce development efforts, and promote student-centered credential delivery and support services.

## PROGRAMMING

Institutions should provide flexible pathways, including access to competency-based learning, off-campus or online course offerings, and varied course or program timing to fit the schedule of part-time learners. Businesses, institutions, and organizations should leverage partnerships to deliver innovative programming that fits the demands of a specific region, industry, community, or population.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

Today's students need innovative advising models that connect students with supports from institutions, employers, and community and government programs. In addition to academic and career services, students should be connected with programs that address basic student needs such as housing, food, child care, emergency expenses, and transportation.



## ABOUT ADVANCE VERMONT

Advance Vermont is a statewide partnership of leaders from business, education, government, nonprofits, and philanthropy rallying to increase educational attainment in Vermont for the benefit of our residents, communities, and economy.

EDUCATE • EMPLOY • EMPOWER