

Report on Act 77 of 2013

16 VSA §944(j) Dual Enrollment Program, Reports

REPORT

March 2016

**Report to the House and Senate Committees on
Education**

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Secretary of Education



Legislation

[Act 77 of 2013](#) an Act Relating to Encouraging Flexible Pathways to Secondary School Completion.

Summary of Legislation

This act creates a Flexible Pathways Initiative within the Agency of Education to expand opportunities for secondary students to complete high school and achieve postsecondary readiness. Among other features, the act provides the opportunity for each high school student to enroll in two dual enrollment courses at no expense to the student, authorizes the development of additional early college programs through which students complete 12th grade entirely on a college campus, and removes the upper age limit for participation in the High School Completion Program. The Act includes multiple effective dates, beginning July 1, 2013.

For the purposes of this report, the Act specifically amends 16 VSA §944(j) to require the Secretary of Education to “report to the House and Senate Committees on Education annually in January regarding the Dual Enrollment Program, including data relating to student demographics, levels of participation, marketing, and program success.”

Findings

FY15 was the second year of expanded dual enrollment opportunities under Act 77. We are now able to compare data across years, as displayed in the tables below. For instance, Table 1.1 compares the number of dual enrollment vouchers used last fiscal year (FY14) with the number for the current year (FY15). This historical information provides preliminary data on the impact of the program. For instance, the total number of vouchers used increased 1.7 times (not quite doubling) from FY14 to FY15. We also compared data on voucher usage across different subgroups of students (see Table 1.2) in order to examine how student demographics are related to participation in the program. As shown in Table 1.2, female student voucher use continued to significantly outpace (by nearly double) that of male students. The rate of increase in participation for males (1.7-fold increase, FY14 to FY15) was slightly higher than that for females (1.6).

Table 1.1

<i>Semester</i>	<i>FY 14</i> ¹	<i>FY 15</i> ²
Summer	453	530
Fall	249	722
Spring	590	913
TOTAL	1292	2165

¹ Year one of Act 77 implementation

² Second Year under Act 77

Table 1.2

	<i>FY 14</i>	<i>FY 15</i>
Male	448	750
Female	844	1371
Did not choose		44
FRL ¹	353	542
Special Education	43	76
ELL ²	86	57

¹ Students who qualify for free and reduced hot lunch

² English Language Learners

The number of vouchers used by students qualifying for free and reduced hot lunch (FRL) also increased during the past year. In addition, the number of vouchers used by students qualifying for Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) under IDEA special education law increased. However, the number of vouchers used by students designated as English Language Learners declined from FY14 to FY15. Despite increased access for these students, their overall numbers are still lagging quite far behind. For instance, we know that students who qualify for FRL represent about 41-43% of Vermont’s k-12 student population, but they represent only 26% of all students using dual enrollment vouchers (27% for FY14, 25% for FY15; see Table 1.2).

Ensuring that low income and/or “first generation” students have access to dual enrollment is critical for moving the needle on postsecondary attainment in Vermont. However, it is also important to ensure that students are ready to participate in college level courses and have the tools and resources to succeed. Best practices and strategies for improving access and success were the focus of the May 2015 Dual Enrollment conference co-sponsored by the AOE, VSC and VSAC. Such work will need to continue in order to ensure equity statewide.

Participation by High Schools and Institutes of Higher Education

FY15 also saw an increase in the number of high schools participating. Avalon Triumvirate Academy, the Sharon Academy, the Compass School and Vermont Commons School became additional dual enrollment partners at the start of FY 15. Every high school experienced an increase in voucher usage, some substantially, from FY14 to FY15 (see Table 1.3). This year, we also began collecting voucher usage data for those students who are homeschooled.

Table 1.3 – Voucher Usage by High School

	FY 14				FY 15			
	Summer 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Total	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Total
HIGH SCHOOL								
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL HS	1	0	4	5	2	4	1	7
*AVALON TRIUMVIRATE ACADEMY	--	--	--	--	1	0	0	1
BELLOWS FALLS UHS	3	2	0	5	0	2	9	11
BFA ST ALBANS	14	6	9	29	15	8	8	31
BFA FAIRFAX	4	5	11	20	12	7	10	29
BLACK RIVER US	0	2	2	4	3	2	3	8
BRATTLEBORO UHS	3	32	32	67	1	77	42	120
BURLINGTON HS	35	18	46	99	31	15	25	71
*BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY	2	4	14	20	4	21	29	54
CABOT SCHOOL	2	2	1	5	3	2	5	10
CANAAN SCHOOLS	0	0	4	4	1	0	1	2
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UHS	31	12	14	57	50	23	42	115
CHELSEA SCHOOL	1	0	2	3	1	2	4	7
COLCHESTER HS	7	3	12	22	14	8	17	39
*COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VT	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
CONCORD HS	1	0	1	2	2	6	6	14
CRAFTSBURY SCHOOLS	1	4	1	6	0	7	5	12
DANVILLE SCHOOL	0	0	1	1	1	6	2	9
ENOSBURG FALLS M/HS	5	4	3	12	15	10	7	32

ESSEX HS	29	6	39	74	28	7	26	61
FAIR HAVEN UHS	9	13	6	28	8	25	7	40
GREEN MOUNTAIN UHS	1	2	1	4	2	3	5	10
HARTFORD HS	4	2	9	15	1	9	7	17
HARWOOD UHS	21	5	11	37	18	3	15	36
HAZEN UHS	3	10	15	28	5	8	14	27
HOMESCHOOLED	0	0	0	0	4	19	23	46
LAKE REGION UHS	22	1	28	51	13	7	40	60
LAMOILLE UHS	5	12	17	34	8	11	26	45
LELAND AND GRAY UHS	1	0	15	16	0	18	14	32
*LYNDON INSTITUTE	3	15	11	29	3	65	4	72
MIDDLEBURY UHS	9	0	9	18	7	7	9	23

	FY 14				FY 15			
	Summer 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	Total	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	Total
HIGH SCHOOL								
MILL RIVER US	3	9	14	26	10	6	8	24
MILTON HS	6	0	3	8	15	5	9	29
MT ABRAHAM UHS	4	1	8	13	10	1	13	24
MT ANTHONY UHS	25	3	22	50	14	27	53	94
MT MANSFIELD US	36	5	12	53	35	6	7	48
NORTH COUNTRY UHS	19	9	20	48	20	29	50	99
NORTHFIELD M/HS	3	1	14	18	2	24	9	35
OTTER VALLEY UHS	2	2	8	12	3	13	5	21
OWBOW UHS	1	0	3	4	1	0	5	6
PEOPLES ACADEMY	8	3	12	23	18	14	21	53
POULTNEY HS	3	0	2	5	4	3	7	14
PROCTOR JR/SR HS	0	1	3	4	1	6	1	8
RANDOLPH UHS	8	4	8	20	7	13	23	43
RICHFORD JR/SR HS	0	2	2	4	0	1	2	3
RIVENDELL ACADEMY	3	0	3	6	1	2	4	7
ROCHESTER SCHOOL	0	1	1	2	4	4	2	10
RUTLAND HS	7	3	7	17	13	58	3	74
*SHARON ACADEMY THE	--	--	--	--	1	0	0	1
SOUTH BURLINGTON HS	34	9	13	56	42	13	32	87
SOUTH ROYALTON M/HS	0	1	0	1	0	2	3	5
SPAULDING UHS	4	1	14	19	8	6	41	55
SPRINGFIELD HS	0	1	31	32	6	30	59	95
*ST JOHNSBURY ACADEMY	5	1	3	9	1	0	3	4
STOWE M/HS	8	2	3	13	4	6	4	14
*THE COMPASS SCHOOL	--	--	--	--	2	0	0	2
*THETFORD ACADEMY	1	2	0	3	2	1	1	4
TWIN VALLEY HS	0	2	2	4	0	1	0	1
TWINFIELD US	1	2	9	12	0	2	14	16
U32 UHS	9	3	7	19	11	16	27	54
VERGENNES UHS	2	2	12	16	1	15	26	42
*VERMONT COMMONS SCHOOL	--	--	--	--	3	0	0	3

WEST RUTLAND SCHOOL	2	3	10	15	4	3	13	20
WHITCOMB JR/SR HS	0	3	3	6	0	2	0	2
WILLIAMSTOWN M/HS	2	1	1	4	0	2	3	5
WINDSOR HS	0	1	1	2	2	2	5	9
WINOOSKI HS	11	1	9	21	3	6	19	28
WOODSTOCK UHS	3	5	3	11	3	0	3	6
Grand Total	453	249	590	1292	530	722	913	2165

**Indicates Independent School*

The number of colleges, universities and other institutions of higher education (IHEs) participating in dual enrollment also increased over the past year (i.e., 20 in FY15 as compared to 15 in FY14). This translates to a broader range of learning opportunities for students as well as expanded geographic reach for the dual enrollment program. As indicated in Table 1.4, the large majority of vouchers were used for dual enrollment courses at Community College of Vermont, followed by the University of Vermont, and the Vermont State Colleges. Table 1.4 also depicts the breakdown of voucher use by specific semester.

Table 1.4 – Voucher Usage by Institutes of Higher Education

	Summer 2013	Fall 2013	Spring 2014	FY 14 Total	Summer 2014	Fall 2014	Spring 2015	FY 15 Total
Bennington College	0	0	1	1	0	20	1	21
Burlington College	1	6	36	43	0	5	11	16
CCV	183	134	391	708	163	350	630	1143
Champlain College	1	2	9	12	0	7	8	15
College of St. Joseph	0	1	3	4	0	2	4	6
Castleton	0	13	4	17	15	78	26	119
Goddard College	--	--	--	--	0	0	15	15
Green Mountain College	0	0	11	11	0	1	12	13
Johnson	25	13	7	45	45	21	11	77
Landmark College	--	--	--	--	0	2	1	3
Lyndon	0	9	11	20	0	77	3	80
Marlboro College	0	9	13	22	0	19	23	42
NECI	9	9	22	40	14	10	26	50
Norwich University	0	0	12	12	2	24	10	36
Saint Michael's College	--	--	--	--	0	1	1	2
SIT Graduate Institute	1	9	19	29	0	31	9	40
Southern Vermont College	--	--	--	--	0	4	0	4
Sterling College	--	--	--	--	0	0	21	21
UVM	233	31	47	311	290	47	64	401
VTC	0	13	4	17	1	23	37	61
Grand Total	453	249	590	1292	530	722	913	2165

In FY 15, several high schools partnered with colleges to offer on-site dual enrollment opportunities (see Table 1.5). When a college course is offered on the high school campus, the

public postsecondary institution retains authority to determine course content and works with the high school to select, monitor, support, and evaluate instructors.

Table 1.5 – Voucher Usage, On-Site Dual Enrollment (Fall 14 & Spring 15)

HIGH SCHOOL	COLLEGE				Total
	CCV	CSC	LSC	SIT	
BELLOWS FALLS UHS	7				7
BRATTLEBORO UHS	8			16	24
CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UHS	15				15
ENOSBURG FALLS M/HS	8				8
FAIR HAVEN UHS	3	16			19
HARWOOD UHS	1				1
LAKE REGION UHS	19		1		20
LAMOILLE UHS	3				3
LELAND AND GRAY UHS	10		6		16
LYNDON INSTITUTE	1		30		31
MISSISQUOI VALLEY UHS	10				10
NORTH COUNTRY UHS	12				12
NORTHFIELD M/HS	1				1
OTTER VALLEY UHS		5			5
PEOPLES ACADEMY	9				9
PROCTOR JR/SR HS	4				4
RANDOLPH UHS	15				15
RUTLAND HS	2	14			16
SPRINGFIELD HS	46				46
U32 UHS	18				18
VERGENNES UHS	26				26
WEST RUTLAND SCHOOL	4				4
Grand Total	222	35	37	16	310

Geographic Reach

Figures 1 and 2 provide maps of voucher usage by county for both FY14 and FY15, respectively. They also include the proportion of that county’s participating students as a function of the entire dual enrollment population and the proportion of that county’s high school students as a function of the entire statewide high school population. This is helpful in discerning whether each county’s dual enrollment participation is similar to its “footprint” within the entire state high school population. Overall, the results from FY14 to FY15 indicate that voucher usage in most counties within the state is relatively consonant with that county’s overall percentage of students statewide. For instance, Washington County’s FY15 numbers represent 11% of the students enrolled in dual enrollment. This is consistent with the fact that 11% of all Vermont high school students are in Washington County (see Figure 2). Significant misalignment between these two percentages within a county is an indication that its students are participating in dual enrollment at rates less than (or more than) expected.

Moving Forward: Digging Deeper into Program Success

In enacting Act 77, the legislature made clear that increasing access to dual enrollment opportunities for ALL Vermont students was a priority. As addressed above, the first full year of expanded access to the program resulted in more high schools, colleges and universities being involved to offer potentially richer and more powerful college credit-bearing learning experiences to students. This expansion coincided with significant growth in student voucher usage during the same timeframe.

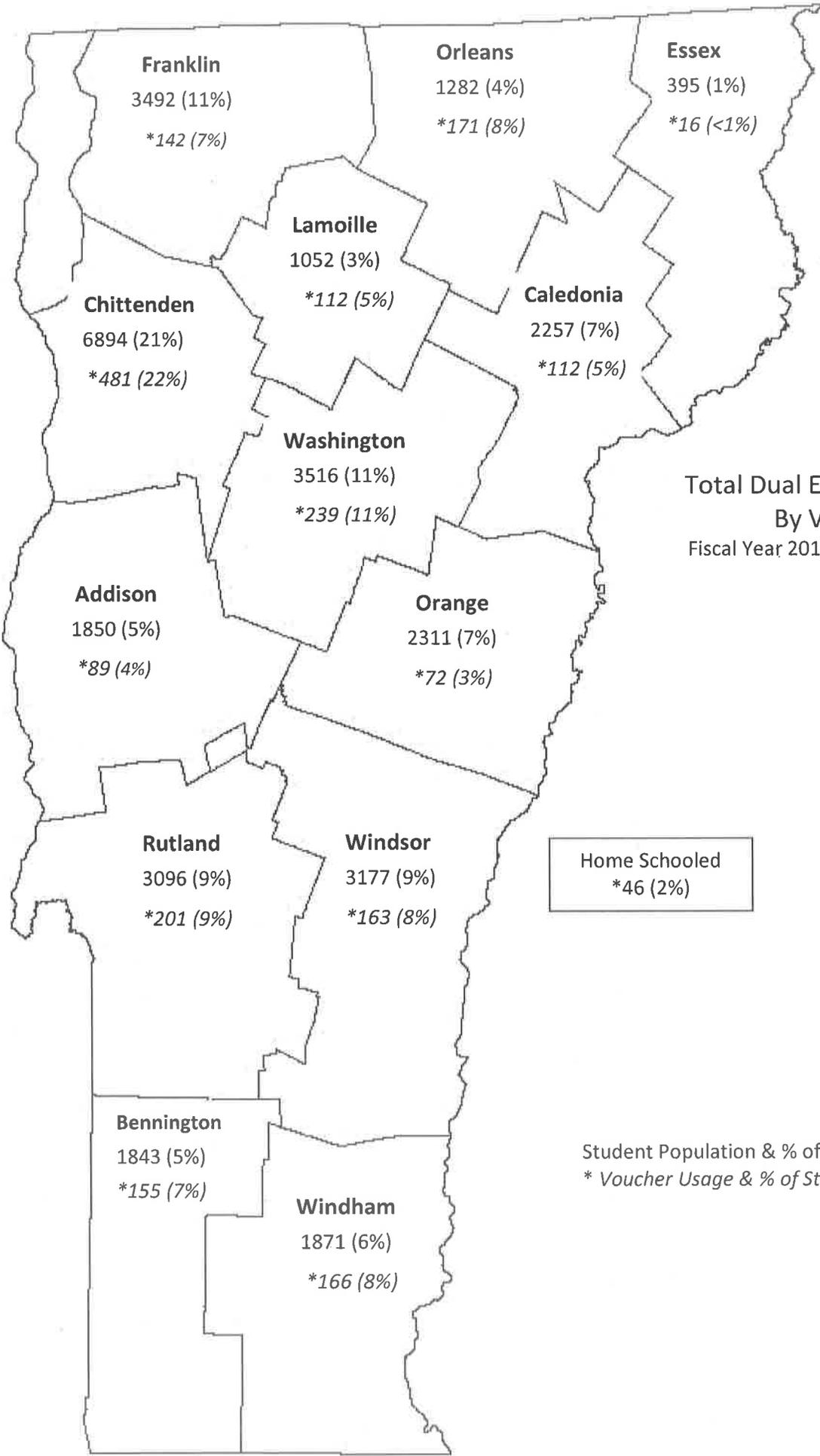
However, increased access is not the only measure of import as we also care deeply that students are ready for the experience and successfully complete the courses they enter. As we move forward in implementing and evaluating Act 77 initiatives, the Agency of Education will track the following performance indicators:

Student performance (i.e., grades) on dual enrollment coursework

Postsecondary enrollment rates for students participating in dual enrollment, as compared to non-participating students

Postsecondary retention (one-year) and persistence rates for students participating in dual enrollment, as compared to non-participating students

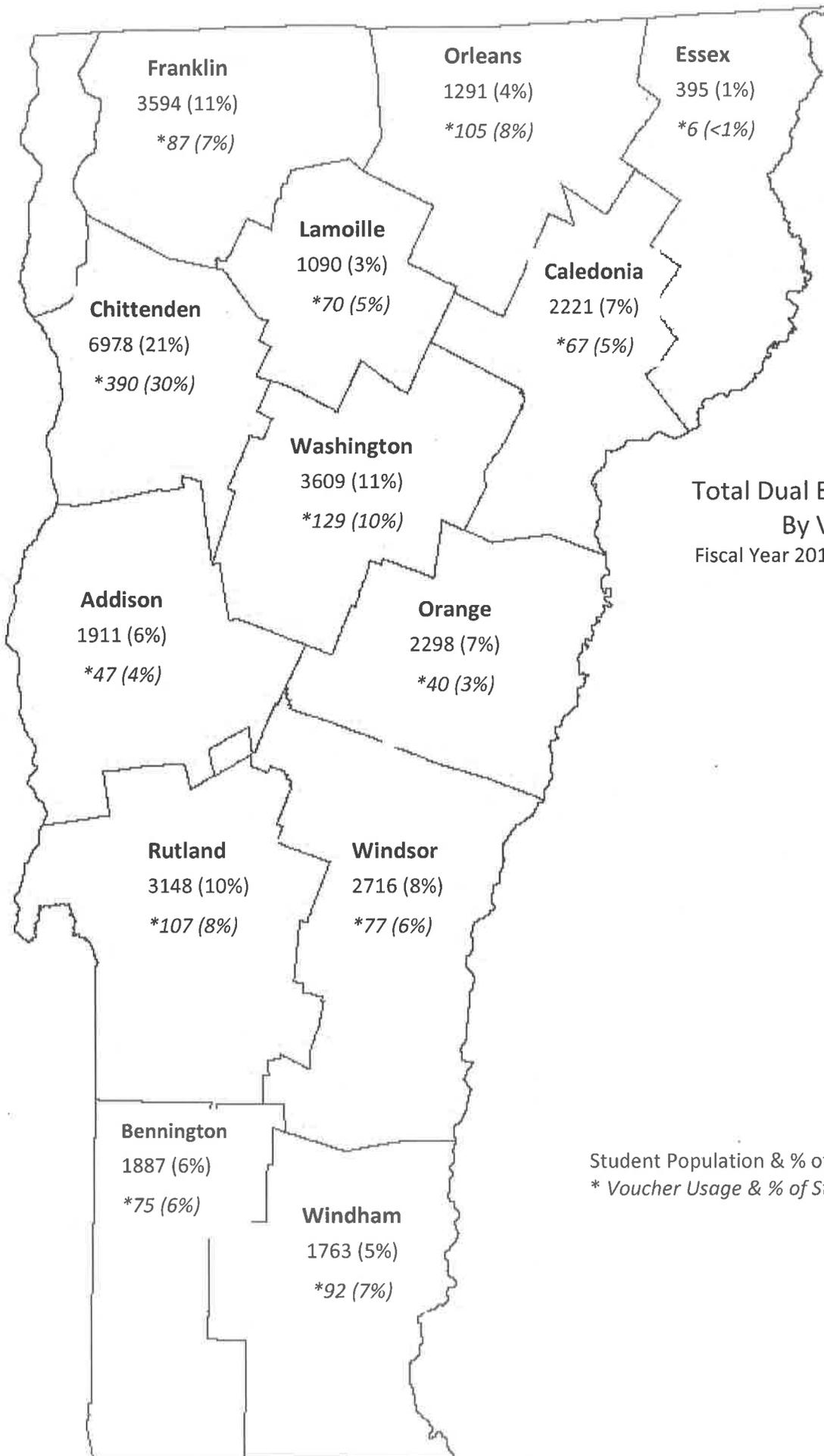
Learning more about both the immediate and long-term outcomes associated with dual enrollment participation will paint a fuller picture regarding the success of this program, including how useful it is in the lives of Vermont students and the return on our state dollars with respect to increased postsecondary attainment, a more skilled workforce, and improved economic vitality statewide.



**Total Dual Enrollment Voucher Use
By Vermont County**
Fiscal Year 2015 (summer 2014, fall 2014, spring 2015)

Home Schooled
*46 (2%)

Student Population & % of State Total
* Voucher Usage & % of State Total



**Total Dual Enrollment Voucher Use
By Vermont County**

Fiscal Year 2014 (summer 2013, fall 2013, spring 2014)

Student Population & % of State Total
* Voucher Usage & % of State Total