

Afterschool Works! IN VERMONT

Jobs related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are driving economic growth in Vermont.

Investing in afterschool and summer learning STEM programs will help prepare our kids for the jobs of tomorrow and connect them with opportunities that will encourage them to stay in Vermont, increase their earning potential and build a prosperous economy for all of us.



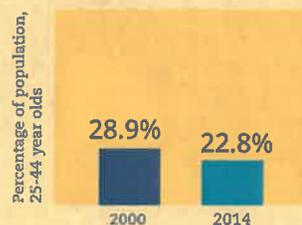
In Vermont, technology jobs are growing, but the workforce is retiring, forcing employers to import the talent they need.



STEM jobs comprise 25% of all employment in Vermont.



Technology jobs are the fastest growing jobs in Vermont—projected to grow 7.5% annually from 2014 to 2022.



Vermont's population of 25-44 year olds declined from 28.9% in 2000 to 22.8% in 2014 and young adults are leaving the state.

Afterschool and summer learning STEM programs can help bridge this gap.



Afterschool STEM programs spark interest by engaging students in hands-on experiences and help them build workforce skills such as critical thinking and collaboration.



Afterschool STEM programs boost students' proficiency in math and science, increase their likelihood of graduation and put them on the path to pursuing a career in the STEM fields.



75% of Vermont parents say afterschool should provide youth with opportunities to explore and engage in hands-on STEM learning.



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Afterschool and summer learning STEM is a smart investment in Vermont's economy and future generations.

Afterschool STEM helps students develop interest in high-demand career fields and gain skills that Vermont businesses value most—and see lacking in the current workforce.



A 2016 *survey of Vermont students across 13 afterschool STEM programs found that 80% or more reported significant gains in science interest, critical thinking or perseverance since the program began. Compared with the national sample, Vermont afterschool students in this survey had significantly higher ratings of science interest, especially among middle school students.

*According to data from Partnership for Education and Wellbeing (PEAR)

Every \$1 invested in afterschool and summer learning programs saves \$2.18 by:



1

Increasing kids' earning potential

2

Improving kids' performance at school

3

Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

**Afterschool Works in Vermont.
Invest in afterschool STEM.**

For more information visit:

<http://www.vermontafterschool.org>

Sources:

- <http://www.vtfuturesproject.org/>
- <http://www.vtmi.info/vtechstudy2015.pdf>
- <http://www.vermonttechnologyalliance.org/page/techreport>
- http://afterschoolliaison.org/AA3PM/detail.html#s/VT/stem/p_of_children_in_programs_2014
- <http://www.vermontafterschool.org/stem/data/>
- <http://www.vermontafterschool.org/advocacy/know-the-facts/#ROI>
- <https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/stem/>
- <http://www.afterschoolliaison.org/stem-afterschool-outcomes.pdf>

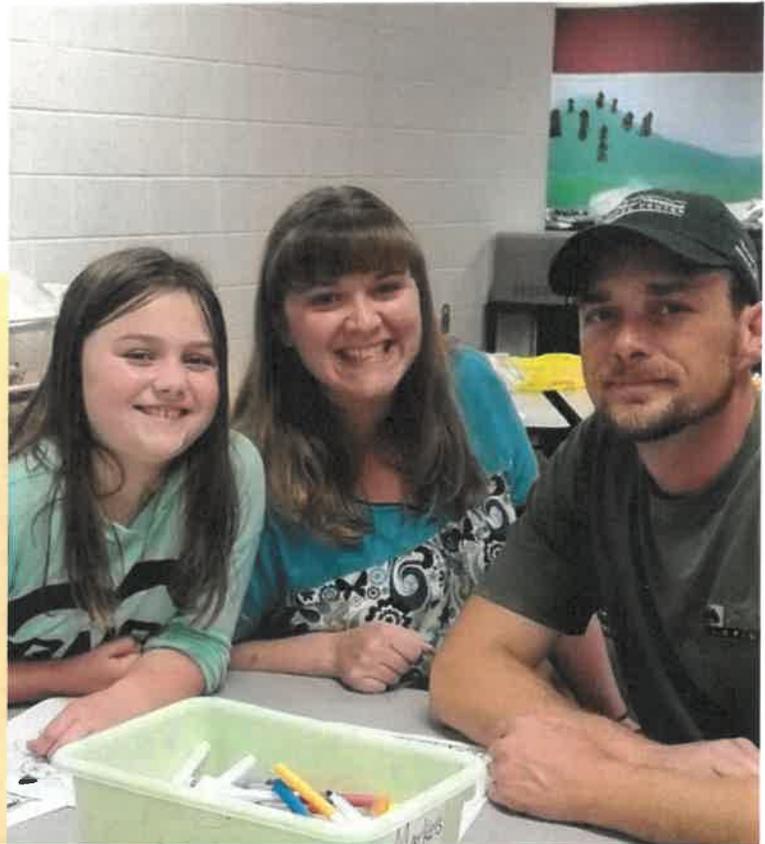
Afterschool Works!

IN VERMONT

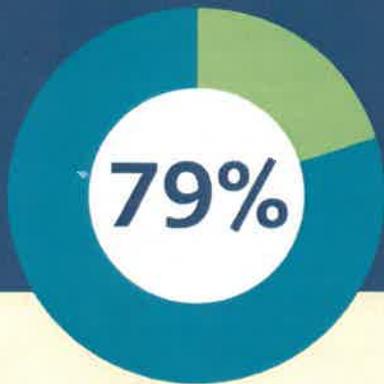
Afterschool and summer learning programs support working Vermonters.

Whether providing jobs in rural areas or providing peace of mind for working families with children during the out-of-school time hours, afterschool and summer learning programs are integral to the Vermont workforce.

In fact, 81% of Vermont parents agree that afterschool programs help give them peace of mind about their children when they are at work, and 79% agree that afterschool and summer learning programs help working parents keep their jobs.



Among Vermont children, ages 6-17:



have working parents

+



per week when children are out of school and parents are at work

+



during the summer

■ **LOOKING FOR WORK?**

Afterschool and summer learning programs in Vermont create:

5,000

full- and part-time jobs every year



Afterschool Works! IN VERMONT

Afterschool prepares Vermont teens for job and mentorship opportunities — something important for those in rural areas with limited employment options.

This is especially true for jobs relating to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) which might be even more limited in rural areas of the state.

Middle school youth (L) work as counselors-in-training at the One Planet summer learning program in Sharon, VT.

WORK-BASED LEARNING

- Work-based learning is any activity that occurs in a workplace and provides opportunities for young people to observe or do actual real work. This helps youth link their academic learning to real-world jobs.
- Work-based learning experiences have been shown to be one of the strongest predictors of adult employment success for students and youth with disabilities.
- Service learning, including volunteering and community service, is a form of work-based learning.
- Benefits of work-based learning experiences include fostering career exploration, developing positive work habits, assessing strengths outside the classroom, and expanding a young person's network.

BUILD TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- Transferable skills are broad skills that support academic learning and future employability.
- Perhaps more so than almost any other format, quality afterschool and summer learning programs create experiences for students to develop social-emotional skills, as well as transferable skills including communications, collaboration, creativity, innovation, inquiry, problem solving, and the use of technology.
- Building transferable and 21C skills via STEM learning can promote awareness and preparation in the STEM fields for future employment.
- Afterschool and summer learning can support Vermont youth to build proficiencies in many different areas, including transferable skills.

**Afterschool Works in Vermont.
Invest in afterschool STEM.**

For more information visit:

<http://www.vermontafterschool.org/stem/>

Sources list:

Kids Count Data Center. (2009-2013). <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>
America After 3PM: Afterschool programs in demand. (2014) Afterschool Alliance.
What to Know About Work-Based Learning Experiences for Students and Youth with Disabilities. (2015). Federal Partners in Transition.

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 **Vermont Afterschool**

Vermont's Afterschool for All Program

Based on Comprehensive Data and State Recommendations on Equity. The Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Working Group under Vermont's PreK-16 Council was charged by the Legislature in 2014-2016 to review and evaluate issues of equity in and access to Vermont's expanded learning opportunities (ELOs), including afterschool and summer learning programs. The Working Group produced a full inventory of afterschool programs in Vermont and three comprehensive reports, including recommendations for funding a statewide Afterschool for All system.

Currently Operating as Vermont's Afterschool for All Program. Work has continued since those reports to keep program data up-to-date. In 2019, a state grant program was created and awarded \$600,000 in state funds from the tobacco settlement fund to expand access to afterschool and summer programming through Vermont's Afterschool for All program.

AFTERSCHOOL FOR ALL RECOMMENDATIONS:

Funding. With \$2.5 million in funding, combined with current federal programs and local contributions, afterschool and summer programs can be provided to children and youth in all low-income VT communities.

Priority Areas. Priority areas for funding in the current Afterschool for All grants, include:

- Increasing access for low-income children and youth;
- Creating or expanding options in underserved areas of the state;
- Serving adolescents and teenagers; and/or
- Fostering skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Oversight Committee. A state level Oversight Committee, established to oversee the Fund, is essential to creating a collaborative and inclusive grant process and understanding the cross-sector impact of afterschool and summer programming. The Oversight Committee can also track trends in need, equity, and access. The Afterschool for All state grant program currently has such a committee in place.

Department of Health. With the strong connections to prevention and long-term health outcomes, the Department of Health is an appropriate placement for the state funding program.

Eligibility. Eligible programs can serve children of all ages (grades K-12) and include: non-profit organizations with current 501.3(c) status; schools, school districts, and supervisory unions; towns, public recreation departments, and municipal government organizations; and licensed childcare centers.

Funding Categories. State funds should be made available for 1) running programs; 2) providing professional development and support to programs; and 3) for interested communities to do local inventories of need and access.

Public private partnership. Vermont already has a vibrant statewide afterschool system to build upon. We envision that this public-private partnership will continue for running programs, supporting best practices in programming, and for funding.

BACKGROUND:

Expanded Learning Opportunities Working Group. House & Senate Education Committees both included language in the Misc. Ed Bill in 2014 that charged the PreK-16 Council with creating an Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Working Group to “review and evaluate issues of equity in and access to Vermont’s Expanded Learning Opportunities, including afterschool and summer programs” (H.876). Unfortunately, the Misc. Ed. Bill was not enacted that year, but the PreK-16 Council decided to do this work given that the legislature had intended to make the request.

State Inventory. In 2014, Vermont Afterschool was awarded a data grant from the National Conference of State Legislatures to gather and analyze the data needed to make recommendations about equity and access to afterschool and summer learning in Vermont. The ELO Working Group’s reports are based on this data and include references to both national research as well as to site-specific program data in Vermont. Maps included in the ELO Working Group’s first report identify gaps in access tied to poverty and geographic location. Since that time, Vermont Afterschool has worked to update the program data each year with live, interactive maps posted on our website:

<http://www.vermontafterschool.org/impact/map/>

Addressing Equity. In 2015, ELO Working Group created the report *Every Hour Counts: Vermont Students Succeed with Expanded Learning Opportunities*. This report consolidated the best research and information available on ELO’s both nationally and in Vermont. The report includes detailed information for Vermont on student outcomes, components of program quality, impact on working families, program cost and location, and return on investment. The report also puts forth a clear priority for ensuring access to ELO programs for the children and youth in every Vermont community by 2020.

Establishing a State Fund. House Education Committee created the ELO Special Fund in Misc. Ed bill (H.480) and charged the ELO Working Group under the PreK-16 Council with developing recommendations for how the fund should be set up and administered. In 2016, the ELO Working Group developed recommendations in *Closing the Gap in Vermont: The Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Special Fund* for how to prioritize funding areas and how best to oversee this funding. In 2017, the House Education Committee took up H.270 (introduced by Rep. Diane Lanpher) and recommended \$1 million in the ELO Special Fund but the bill never made it out of committee.

State Prevention Priorities. Expanding access to afterschool and summer learning programs is included in the priority recommendations of Vermont’s Opioid Coordination Council (2019) and the Marijuana Commission (2019) as an essential component of prevention goals statewide.

Tobacco Settlement Funds. In 2018, the legislature allocated \$600,000 in funding from tobacco settlement funds through AHS to increase access to afterschool and summer learning programs. In Spring 2019, over 100 Letters of Interest are submitted from communities across the state for requests totaling over \$5.5 million for two-year projects. A grant oversight committee selected 12 projects to receive funding for two years.



Vermont Afterschool is proud to be working with Vermont's Agency of Human Services to establish the **Afterschool for All Grant Program**. The purpose of the grant program is to support efforts that will increase access to afterschool and summer learning programs in Vermont. Up to \$600,000 total will be awarded through this grant process over the next two years.

GRANT PRIORITY AREAS

Funding was given to projects to start or expand afterschool and/or summer learning programs in Vermont, with priority for programs that:

- Increase access for low-income children and youth;
- Create or expand options in underserved areas of the state;
- Serve adolescents and teenagers; and/or
- Foster skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

GRANT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The grant oversight committee was charged with developing the grant application and overseeing the grant award and selection process. Committee members included:

- Barb Russ, member of the ELO Working Group and former afterschool director
- Carolyn Weir, Vermont Community Foundation
- Cass Mabbott, Department of Libraries
- Katie Mobley, Community College of Vermont, member of the ELO Working Group
- Holly Morehouse, Vermont Afterschool, member of the ELO Working Group
- Katy Davis, Hunger Free Vermont
- Lynne Robbins, Child Development Division, Department for Children and Families
- Sara Chesbrough, Maternal and Child Health, Department of Health
- Rich Tulikangas, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

TIMELINE AND PROCESS

All funds must be spent by the end of FY21. Letters of Interest were collected in March 2019, with a subset of the most promising projects invited to submit a full grant application in May 2019. In June 2019, 12 projects were selected to each receive a two-year grant.

2019-2021 GRANTEES

Addison Northwest School District
Albany Community School
Bennington Center for Restorative Justice
Brookfield Elementary School
Franklin Northeast SU LEAPS
Friends for Change Youth Group of Bellows Falls

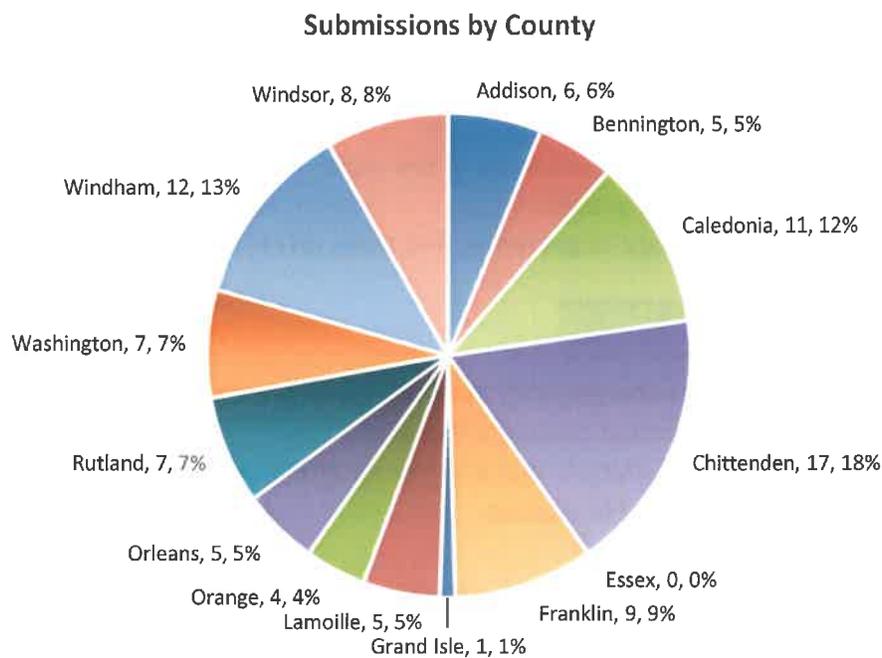
Kingdom East Afterschool
Meeting Waters YMCA
Twinfield Union School
Two Rivers SU
Upper Valley Haven
Winooski School District

OVERVIEW OF LETTERS OF INTEREST

101 Letters of Interest submitted in Spring 2019

30% were to start new programs; **66%** were to expand existing programs

Total Amount Requested by Letters of Interest is **\$5,451,587**



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WYP

VERMONT YOUTH PROJECT

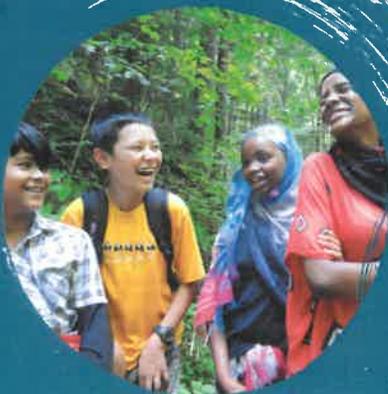
Positive youth development in Vermont communities

What is the Vermont Youth Project process?

Vermont Youth Project supports each community in a collaborative process by bringing together multiple domains including third space, family, community, and schools to address the built environment for youth in communities.

The foundation of Vermont Youth project is data driven. Real-time data is available 8 weeks after youth take an annual survey on risk and protective factors. Every year communities develop specific localized plans and strategies with Vermont Afterschool staff around parent and family engagement, youth voice and engagement, increased third space opportunities, community asset mapping, and more.

Vermont Youth Project is a 5+ year commitment and communities participating in this project receive a support system from Vermont Afterschool that helps with amplifying, connecting, and refocusing the great programming and efforts already happening in their community as well as identifying new opportunities to provide healthy environments for youth.



2020 UPDATES AND SURVEY FINDINGS

6 COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATING

Enosburg, Fair Haven, Richford, Richmond, Rutland, and Swanton have signed on to a 5 year pilot of Vermont Youth Project.



3260 YOUTH TOOK THE SURVEY

Across 13 schools in 6 communities, the survey participation rate was 82% overall.



KEY FINDINGS

1. Substance use rates are relatively high, particularly cannabis
2. Parent and Family Engagement: Parental collaboration and co-communication relatively low
3. Perceptions: There is a culture of acceptance, particularly around alcohol and cannabis
4. Third Space Activities: Unorganized free time (e.g. late outside hours) and lack of participation in structured activities in out of school time is significant

COMMUNITY GOALS IN YEAR 1

Year 1 goals support increased community engagement and understanding through community meetings. VYP community leads are presenting survey findings in a variety of settings to engage with community partners, town leadership, schools, parents, and youth.

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. Community leads with support from Vermont Afterschool will help their communities create strategies under the key findings from the survey.
2. Annual survey will be administered in October of 2020 through 2023.
3. In years 2 through 5, communities will be working on asset mapping, partnerships, parent and family engagement, youth voice and engagement, and increased third space activities.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

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28.2%

11th and 12th graders report staying outside the home past midnight once or more a week



27.3%

High school students reported trying alcohol by the age of 13

75.3%

Middle school students report their parents know the parents of their friends



52.6%

Adolescents would like to continue to live in the same community



90.6%

High school students report it's easy to receive caring and warmth from their parents



14.5%

Middle school students report hanging out at a friends house with no adult present

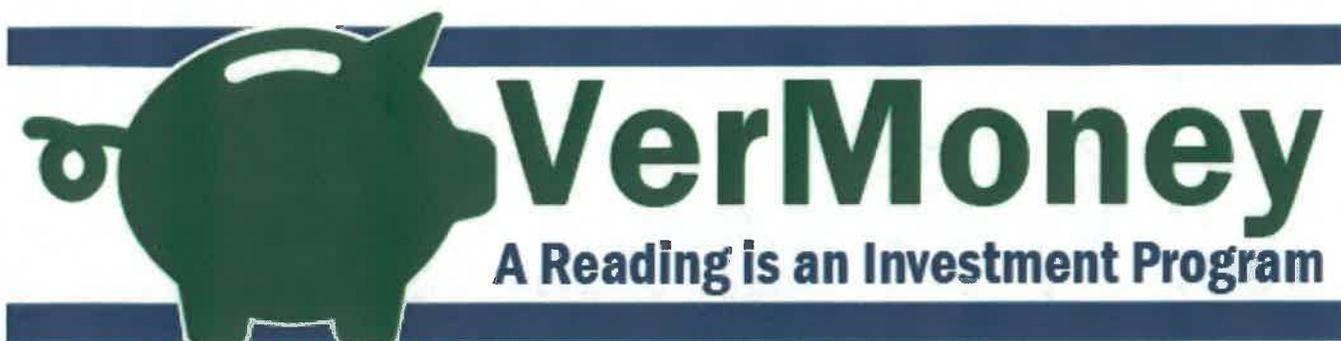
38.2%

11th and 12th graders have reported using marijuana



The Vermont Youth Project is supported by Vermont Afterschool, a nonprofit dedicated to ensuring that children and youth in every Vermont community have access to high-quality out-of-school time programs.

www.vermontafterschool.org



VerMoney is a hands-on, active learning afterschool program that teaches key concepts of financial literacy to children in grades 2-5.

Developed by Vermont Afterschool, in collaboration with Vermont State Treasurer's office, this financial literacy curriculum launched in 2019 with a total of 25 sites participating from 12 afterschool programs across Vermont.



2019 VERMONEY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS:

- All-4-One | Springfield, VT
- Crossroads | Swanton and Franklin, VT
- CVSU Afterschool | Northfield, VT
- Encore | Newport, Troy, Jay, Brighton, and Holland, VT
- Greater Burlington YMCA | Essex, VT
- Kingdom East Afterschool | Sheffield, VT
- Mary Johnson Children's Center | Middlebury, VT
- REACH! Afterschool | Hardwick and Wolcott, VT
- RNESU SOAR | Brandon, VT
- Student Success Winooski and Beyond | Winooski, VT
- Tapestry | Rutland, VT
- The Afterschool Connection | Cambridge, VT



VERMONEY CURRICULUM UNITS:

- Module 1: Saving
- Module 2: Wants and Needs
- Module 3: Budgeting
- Module 4: Scarcity & Choices
- Module 5: Goods & Services
- Module 6: Marketing
- Module 7/8: Starting a Business



"The kids loved watching their money grow, towards the end there were more deposits and less cashing out. In the final weeks the kids realized they could have their own businesses as kids, which they thought was pretty cool."

- Middlebury Site

"Kids enjoyed the budgeting and watching their money add up. There were a lot of great team building moments."

- Springfield Site

"The students asked for more VerMoney on the last day."

- Winooski site



Thank you to the Vermont State Treasurer's Office, TD Bank Charitable Foundation, and the Vermont Bankers Association, Inc. for providing support for this program.

Vermont Youth Council Bill

Youth make a better Vermont. Vermont values youth as they are; just by being young people living here, they enrich our communities. Young people are also problem-solvers who are eager to be engaged in making our state a stronger, healthier, and happier place to live. As Vermonters we have a collective responsibility to ensure that all young Vermonters are safe, healthy, supported, educated, and engaged. This means recognizing that young people need what we all need: community connection, opportunities to learn, access to jobs, recreation, and other activities.

Overview of H.775 - Vermont Youth Council Bill

-  Establishes a State Youth Council to advise the Governor and General Assembly on issues affecting young people living in Vermont. The State Youth Council will have 15 members between the ages of 9 and 26, one member from each county and one statewide member who shall serve as Chair.
-  The State Youth Council is authorized to hold at least four public meetings to collect input from young people across the state. Members of the State Youth Council shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses for meetings.
-  The Office of Administration and Vermont's Youth Services Advisory Council will support the State Youth Council with training on State policies and on how to formulate policy proposals.
-  The Governor shall meet with the State Youth Council at least once per year to hear and receive the Council's advice and recommendations on policies that impact the youth of Vermont.
-  The State Youth Council will also evaluate the State's progress on population-level outcomes and recommend revisions to indicators to better reflect data that impacts Vermont youths
-  The State Youth Council will report back to the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations by November 2021 with recommendations on any amendments to its enabling law.

When Youth are Active, Engaged, Connected, and Heard It Benefits All Vermonters

Young People as a Resource

Young Vermonters are one of our state's most important resources. Youth represent 23% of the Vermont population (ages 9-26) and reflect Vermont's diversity (based on American Community Survey 2017). They are a group of dynamic, vibrant, and innovative individuals who are finding new ways to have their voices heard and effect the change they wish to see in the world.



Innovation and Inclusion

Multiple perspectives strengthen decision-making and policy development by encouraging innovation, creativity and change. Including the unique perspectives of young people improves state policies and programs, including youth-specific services.



Economic Vitality

Vermont's economy depends on the participation of young people and empowering them to take part will help to keep young Vermont's here. It will also diversify our economy, making it more competitive and sustainable.

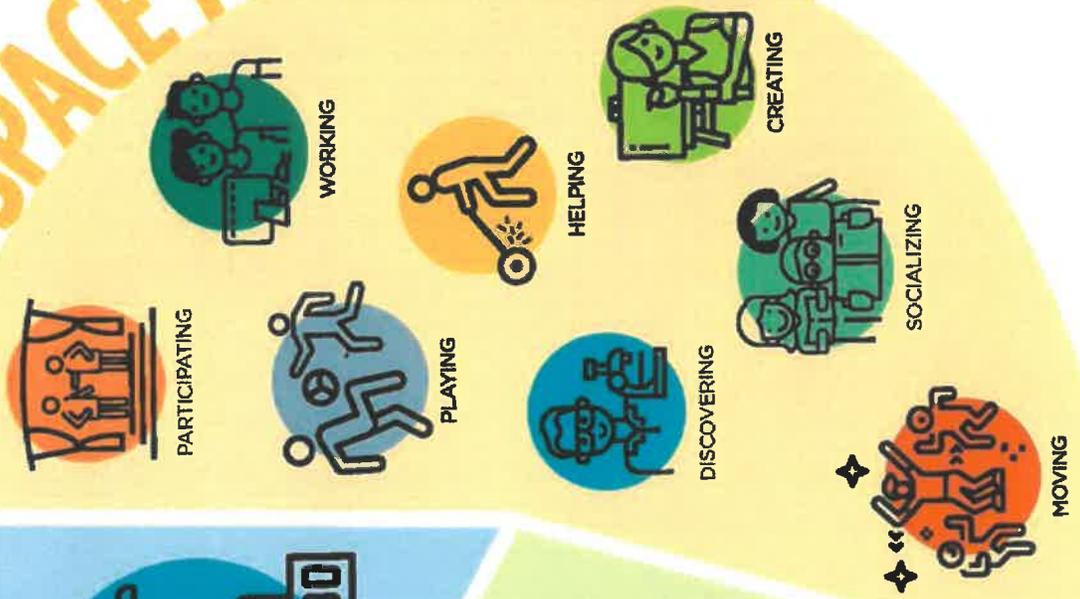
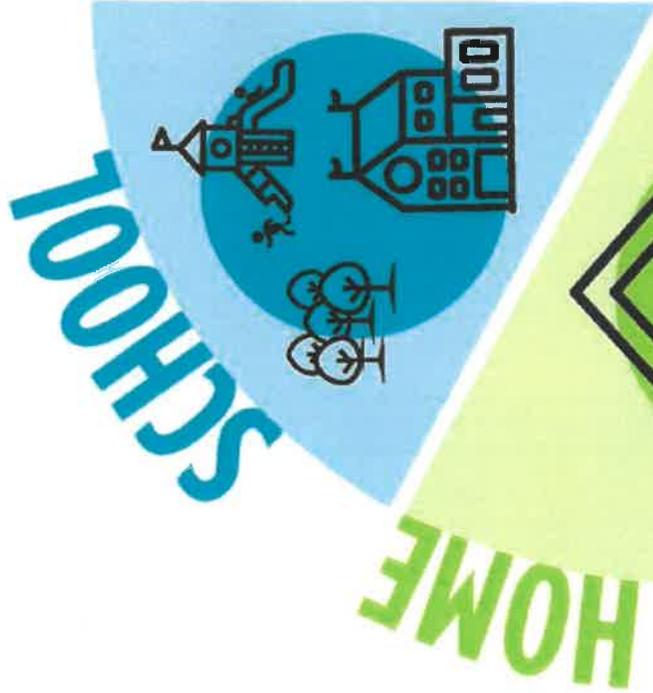


Strong Democracy

Young people have the right to be heard and respected. Almost all government policies and decisions have an impact on young people's lives and youth have the right to influence those decisions, both individually and collectively. Furthermore, involving young people in political processes helps build trust in democratic institutions, in turn protecting Vermont's democracy.



THIRD SPACE FOR LEARNING



VT9T026 COALITION



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