

What Are Flexible Pathways?

Flexible Pathways are any combination of high-quality expanded learning opportunities, including academic and experiential components, which build and assess attainment of identified proficiencies and lead to secondary school completion, civic engagement and postsecondary readiness. Flexible pathways allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to tasks of personal interest as part of the personalized learning planning process. Listed below are a few of the flexible pathways available to Vermont students and described in Act 77.

BLENDED LEARNING

An education program in which content and instruction are delivered both in a traditional classroom setting and through virtual learning that allows for student choice around time, place, path, and/or pace.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Learning delivered through a Web-based platform that employs a variety of digital tools, content, and supports and allows for student choice around time, place, path, and/or pace. Virtual learning can facilitate both individual and collective learning, and can occur synchronously and asynchronously.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

An educational program that supports attainment of a high school diploma, designed to provide students with technical knowledge, skills and aptitudes that will prepare them for further education and enhance their employment options or lead to an industry-recognized credential. CTE in Vermont is available to high school students through 17 regional CTE centers.

COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING (SERVICE LEARNING)

A program that combines meaningful service to the community with a student's learning goals. Students improve their academic and transferable skills and personal development by applying what they learn in school to a valuable, significant, and necessary service that has real consequences for the community; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Enrollment by a secondary student in a credit-bearing course offered by an accredited postsecondary institution and for which, upon successful completion of

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the course, the student will receive credit toward graduation from the secondary school in which the student is enrolled and postsecondary credit from the institution that offered the course.

EARLY COLLEGE

Full-time enrollment by a 12th grade Vermont student for one academic year in a program offered by a partnering postsecondary institution. The student receives credit from the secondary school and from the postsecondary institution.

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

High quality programs within communities and schools designed to serve learners on a regular basis by providing unique opportunities for academic growth, hands-on learning, and personal development. Often these programs are provided by schools in collaboration with non-profit organizations, museums, and other local entities. These opportunities can occur beyond traditional school hours and outside of the school building.

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM (HSCP)

Designed to offer a flexible pathway to those at least 16 years of age and at risk of disengaging from school, the HSCP provides learners with educational services of the scope and rigor needed for the attainment of a high school diploma. HSCP students work with their local Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) provider to have their skills assessed in reading, writing, and math and to develop a personalized learning plan with the assigned high school that aligns with local graduation requirements. Upon successful completion of the PLP's learning activities the student is issued a diploma by the high school.

WORK-BASED LEARNING

An educational program or experience involving student interactions with industry or community professionals in real, virtual, online, or simulated work environments that exposes learners to postsecondary options, provides opportunities for skill development and proficiency attainment, and allows students to reinforce and deepen their school-based learning.