

# I Wish I Knew That!

## Programs to Pursue Before You Graduate

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**College and Career Pathways 2026**

# Introductions

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# Agenda

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What are Flexible  
Pathways

Flexible Pathways  
Toolkit

## College in High School

- Dual Enrollment
- Fast Forward
- Early College

## Careers in High School

- CTE
- Work Based Learning

## Expanded Learning in High School

- Virtual Blended Learning
- Independent Studies

# Flexible Pathways are supported by Legislation

## Act 77: The Flexible Pathways Initiative

### Personalized Learning (7-12)

- Personalized learning planning process
- Discover student interests, abilities, etc.
- Personalized Learning Plan
- Career development and post-secondary planning

### Flexible Pathways

- Increase engagement and encourage postsecondary continuation
- Can relate to career and academic interests
- Multiple types of flexible pathways

# Flexible Pathways Programs

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If you want to explore...

...careers in high school

...expanded learning in high school

...college in high school

Career  
Technical  
Education

Virtual and  
Blended  
Learning

Dual  
Enrollment &  
Fast Forward

Work-Based  
Learning

Expanded  
Learning  
Opportunities

Early College  
Program

# Flexible Pathways Toolkit

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These resources have been developed for schools, supervisory unions, and school districts to use with students, colleagues, families, and community to support the development, expansion, and implementation of flexible pathway opportunities.

- **Dual Enrollment and Early College Checklists**
- **Student Considerations Guides and Tools**
- **Universal Samples and Talking Points For:**
  - ❖ **Career and Technical Education**
  - ❖ **Dual Enrollment**
  - ❖ **Early College**
  - ❖ **Virtual Blended Learning**
  - ❖ **Work Based Learning**

# Past 1: College in High School

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- Why College in High School?
- Dual Enrollment
- Early College
- Fast Forward



# Preparing for post-secondary course work

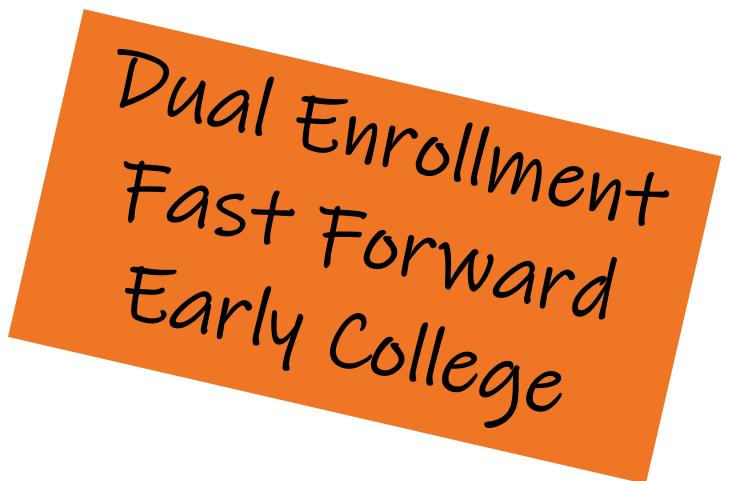
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- Flexible Pathways Toolkit
  - ✓ Talking points, checklists
- Introduction to College and Careers
- VTVLC Introduction to Online Learning

# Why College in High School

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- Explore the world of college prior to high school graduation
- Receive both high school and college credit for taking a college level course
- Get a jumpstart on earning postsecondary credentials
- Offset future college expenses
- Ease the transition to life after high school



# Overview of Dual Enrollment

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**Who:** All eligible 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade Vermont students

**When:** Upon completion of 10th grade, before graduation

**What:** Enroll in two college courses tuition free

**Where:** 8 Partnering Vermont colleges & universities

**How:** Dual Enrollment System, communication with HS counselor & PLP

# Overview: Early College



**Who:** Eligible 12th grade Vermont students



**When:** Application and approval process during 11th grade year



**What:** Full year of college in place of their HS senior year



**Where:** Partnering postsecondary institutions



**How:** Connect with your HS counselor, apply in Junior year



## Vermont's Early College Program



Watch on  YouTube

# Overview Fast Forward Program

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**Who:** Students enrolled in certain Career Technical Education programs

**When:** 11th & 12th graders (some 10<sup>th</sup> grade students) – during the school year

**What:** Earn college credits through your CTE program

**Where:** Vermont State University or Community College of Vermont

**How:** Dual Enrollment System, communication with your Regional CTE Center & PLP

# Pre-Tech Programs – Grades 9 or 10

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- Pre-Tech Exploratory programs are full or half day programs offered at many CTE centers that give students the chance to explore all CTE programs at a CTE center, while doing project-based learning to earn English Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies credit (and sometimes also science)
- Pre-Tech Foundations courses are a single course offered at many CTE centers focused on a specific program offered at a CTE center to give students exposure to that career path.

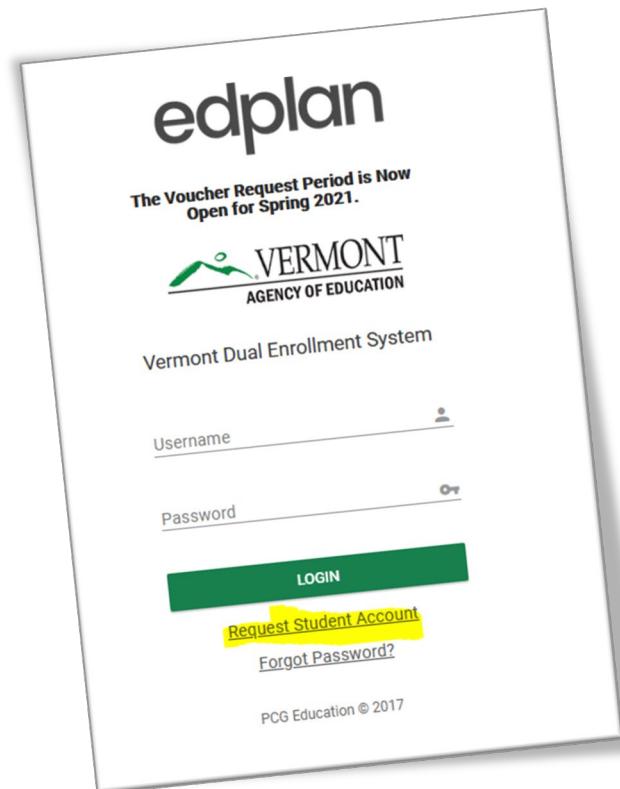


# Dual Enrollment Site

*Brief overview of the system*

- Request DE System account
- HS Coordinator\* approves account request
- Complete profile & household info
- Find a course using the college's course catalog
- Request course(s) in the DE System
- Upon approval from HS Coordinator register at the college using the voucher number

\* Home Study works with AOE directly



# Timeline: College in High School Offerings

| Grade   | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade   | 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | 12 <sup>th</sup> grade   |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Dual Enrollment</b>                                | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs) ICC, VTVLC   | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br>ICC, VTVLC | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br>ICC, VTVLC                        | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br>ICC, VTVLC | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br>ICC, VTVLC   | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br><b>Eligible for 2 Dual Enrollment courses – beginning summer before 11<sup>th</sup> grade</b> |
| <b>Early College</b>                                  | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br>ICC, VTVLC  | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br>ICC, VTVLC | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br>ICC, VTVLC                        | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br>ICC, VTVLC | College/career exploration through personal learning plans (PLPs)<br><b>Dual Enrollment Course Application &amp; Approval Process</b> | <b>Eligible for Early College</b>  |
| <b>Fast Forward</b>                                   |  |   |  | <b>Eligible for Fast Forward courses at participating CTE Programs</b>          |   |  |
| <b>Pre-tech programs</b>                              |  |   | Pre-tech programs in partnership with regional CTE Center<br>School directed college/career counseling |   |   |  |
| <b>Intro to College &amp; Careers (CCV)<br/>VTVLC</b> | <u><a href="#">Eligible for CCV Introduction to College &amp; Careers Course</a></u><br><u><a href="#">VTVLC – Introduction to Online Learning</a></u> |   |  |   |   |  |

# Questions?

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# Part 2: Careers in High School

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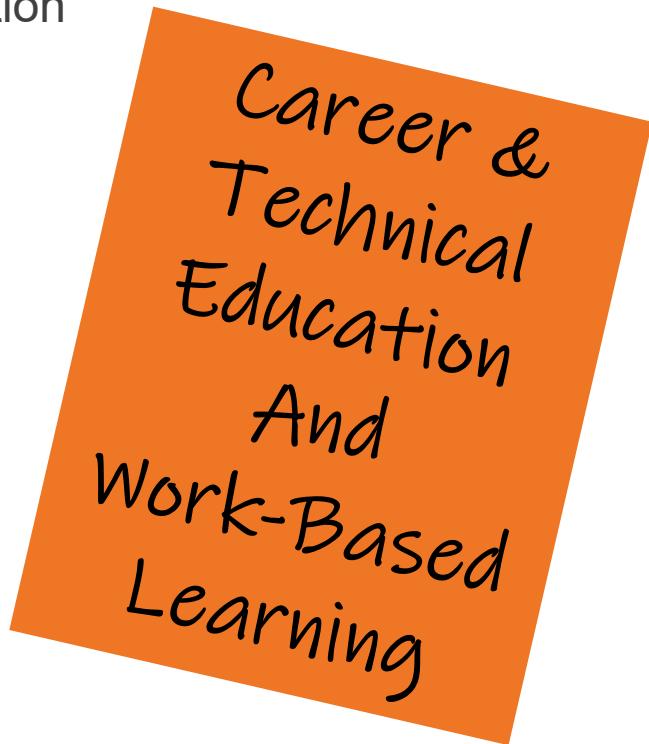
- Why Careers in High School
- Timeline
- Career Technical Education (CTE)
- Work-Based Learning (WBL)



# Why Careers in High School

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- Gain the skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation and real-world experience you need to prepare for high skill, high demand, high wage careers
- Participate in programs that meet the ever-changing needs of learners and employers
- Earn a post-secondary industry recognized credential.
- Participate in work-based learning experiences in real, virtual, online, or simulated work environments that expose learners to postsecondary options



# Overview: Career Technical Education



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**Who:** 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Vermont student  
(Potentially Grade 10 if space is available)

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**When:** Apply during spring of 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade

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**What:** Students gain skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation and real-world experience needed to prepare for high skill, high demand, high wage careers

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**Where:** Provided statewide through 15 service regions

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**How:** Meet the admission criteria set forth in the admissions policies of the technical center

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# CTE Programs

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|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| ❖ Advanced Manufacturing               | ❖ Automotive, Diesel Technology, Auto-body | ❖ Building Trades                                  | ❖ Business                       |
| ❖ Computer Systems, Networking, and IT | ❖ Cosmetology                              | ❖ Culinary Arts                                    | ❖ Digital and Visual Arts        |
| ❖ Diversified Agriculture              | ❖ Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing               | ❖ Engineering                                      | ❖ Forestry and Natural Resources |
| ❖ Health Sciences and Dental Assisting | ❖ Heavy Equipment                          | ❖ Human Services, Childhood, and Teacher Education | ❖ Law Enforcement                |
|  | ❖ Welding                                  |  |                                  |

# Overview: Work-Based Learning

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- **Who:** Any eligible Vermont high school student
- **When:** Dependent upon Child Labor Laws, students need to be 14 years of age and up for most experiences
- **What:** Work related experiences that enhance academic and career goals
- **Where:** Professional working environments, businesses within the local community
- **How:** Connect with your school's Work-Based Learning Coordinator



# Timeline: Career in High School Offerings

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|                            | <b>7th – 9th Grade</b>  | <b>10th Grade</b>  | <b>11th Grade</b>  | <b>12th Grade</b>   |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>CTE</b>                 | College/career exploration through personalized learning plans<br><br>Pre-tech programs in partnership with regional CTE Center and school directed college / career counseling | Pre-tech programs in partnership with regional CTE Center and school directed college / career counseling<br><br><b>Apply in spring for 11th grade CTE participation</b> | Participate in half day or full day program<br><br><b>Apply in spring for 12th grade CTE participation</b>   | Participate in half day or full day program   |
| <b>Work-Based Learning</b> | College/career exploration through personalized learning plans  | Career exploration and preparation through job shadows, internships, paid work experiences, Transition services.   | Career exploration and preparation through job shadows, internships, paid work experiences, Transition services.<br><br>Cooperative Education through CTE programs | Career exploration and preparation through job shadows, internships, paid work experiences, Transition services.<br><br>Apprenticeship and Cooperative Education through CTE programs |

# Questions?

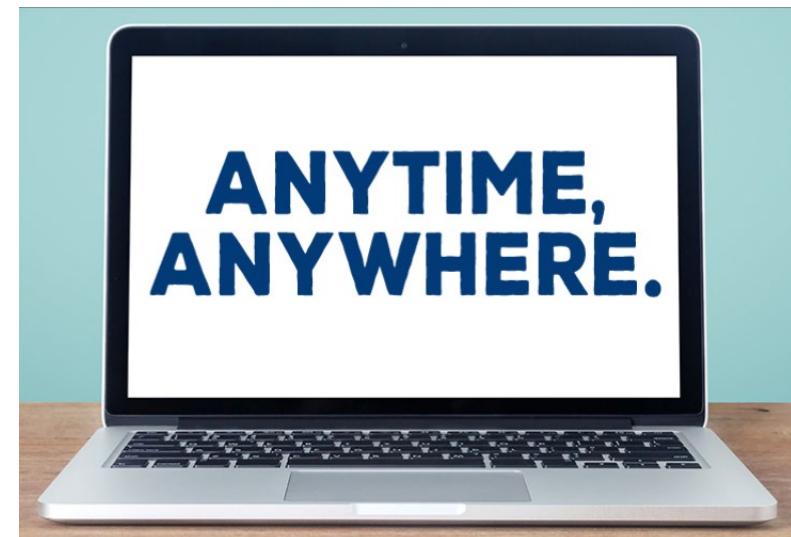
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# Part 3: Expanded Learning in High School

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## Why Expanded Learning in High School?

- Virtual and Blended Learning
  - (VTVLC is used here as an example)
- Expanded Learning Opportunities
  - (Independent Studies as an example)



# Why Expanded Learning in High School

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- Range of online learning opportunities for students
- Allows student choice in time, place, and pace of learning
- Employs a variety of digital tools, content, and supports

Virtual and  
Blended Learning  
and  
ELO's

# Overview VT VLC

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- **Who:** Students in grades 9-12 (some offerings available for earlier grades)
- **When:** Fall and spring semesters, 16-18 weeks each
- **What:** Over 100 online courses that can be used to meet high school graduation requirements
- **Where:** Online through any Vermont high school
- **How:** Connect with your counselor to apply



# Timeline: Expanded Learning in High School

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|   | <b>7th – 12th Grade</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative (VTVLC)</b> | Full time programs<br>Traditional programs<br>Home Study programs<br>Flex Programs       |
| <b>Expanded Learning Opportunities</b>              | As determined by the local school, including such opportunities as independents studies. |

# Questions?

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# Resources

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- [Flexible Pathways Toolkit](#)
- [Post-Secondary Program Options for High School](#)
- [Fast Forward Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Dual Enrollment and Fast Forward Talking Points for High School Students](#)
- [Thriving in Vermont's Early College Program - A Support Guide](#)
- [Early College Financial Aid](#)
- [ECP Entry Requirements by Participating Colleges](#)
- [Dual Enrollment and Early College: Implications for Special Education](#)
- [Vermont Dual Enrollment Program](#)
- [Vermont Early College Program](#)
- [Career Technical Education](#)
- [Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative](#)

# Questions?

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