

Leveraging Virtual Learning

To Meet Your District's Needs

October 17, 2024

Goals of Webinar

1. Learn how to use VTVLC to support your school district's goals.
2. Explore how virtual options enhance student opportunity
3. Coding and Budgeting for students engaged in a virtual learning flexible pathway.

And lastly, answer any questions, listen to suggestions and continue to collaborate with districts.

What is VTVLC?



VTVLC VERMONT VIRTUAL
LEARNING COOPERATIVE

The Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative connects students with Vermont schools. Our goal is to overcome the three most common barriers that prevent students from taking the courses they want or need in schools. These barriers are **availability** of courses, **accessibility** to courses and the **flexibility** of your education.

Our Vision

VTVLC's vision is to deliver flexible online educational opportunities to Vermont students.

Does your district have students currently taking classes at VTVLC?

Use the Chat to let us know if:

1. Our district has students enrolled in a VTVLC class.
2. Our district is a teaching partner district.
3. Our district hasn't explored VTVLC yet.



Enhancing Student Opportunities Through Flexible Pathways

“ Virtual Learning has supplemented our comprehensive approach to providing Personalized Learning through our Pathways program. We believe all students engage in the Pathway experience to meet their Personalized Learning Plan and individual needs.

The collaboration with VTVLC has allowed for this to occur. We have students accessing VTVLC full time but also participating in select school activities and courses via our CDP program; to students participating in Alg 1 at 8th grade in White River Valley Middle School. This results in students having more opportunities to pursue their Pathway towards graduation. ”

Jamie Kinnarney
Superintendent of White River Valley Supervisory Union

VTVLC - 2024-2025 Highlights

[Programs Available:](#)

- Part-time enrollment (1-3 classes) for 9-12
- Full-time (4-5 classes) for K-12
- Custom projects
- Course Leasing

VTVLC has partnered with three high schools as part of the [Collaborative Diploma Program:](#)

- Richford Jr. / Sr High School
- White River Valley High School
- Hazen Union High School

And one Elementary School

- Rochester / Stockbridge (K-6)

To offer an option for K-12 students residing in non-operating towns to enroll in one of these schools and learn virtually.



VTVLC - Programs Overview

Part Time (9-12)

Half-credit, one-segment and one-credit, two-segment online course, a-la carte.

- **Traditional Courses:**
Fall/Spring courses in a variety of content areas
- **On-Demand Courses:**
Rolling enrollment courses in a variety of content areas
- **Personalized Assessment of Student Standards (PASS):**
Courses designed by students under the supervision of a content area expert

Full-Time (K-12)

- A full-time online learning option for K-12 that allow students to stay enrolled at their local school.

Personalized Benefits to Students: Student Voice & Agency

“ Countless students who have interest in something but we don't offer it and/or they want to take more than we offer can go to VTVLC

- Students interested in **criminal justice** are taking a forensic science class to learn more about the connection.
- Students taking **medical terminology** to jumpstart their pursuit of health sciences in college.
- Students taking a new **language**.
- Students taking a **sports marketing class**, that is helping them think about their future career.

These examples all help to meet our goals to create opportunity for student voice and agency. ”

Phil Grant
Principal at People's Academy

VTVLC Partnership

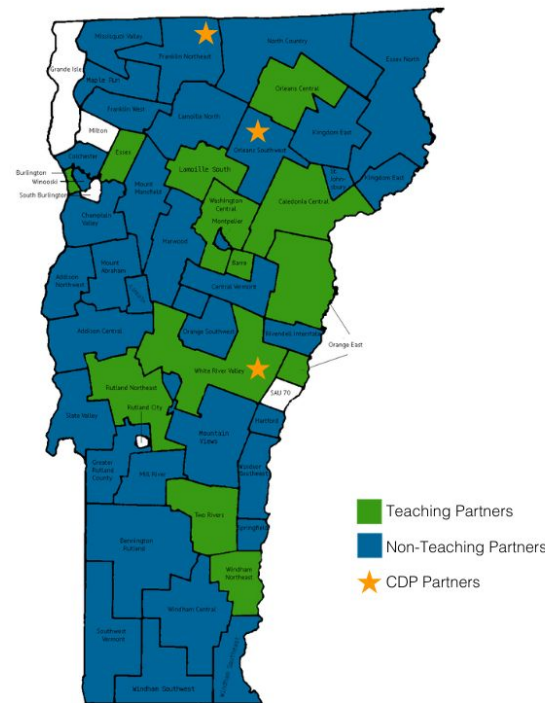
Option 1: Teaching Partnership

- School provides: At least one teacher at to facilitate one online course per semester as part of their regular teaching schedule
- VTVLC provides: 40 traditional and 5 on-demand enrollments in our programs at no additional cost to the school to be used as the school sees fit*

Option 2: Non-teaching Partnership

- VTVLC provides: 10 enrollments in our traditional courses at no cost to the school to be used as the school sees fit

*More enrollments are provided for each .2 FTE teacher provided



The Student Experience

- VTVLC offers a wide variety of student clubs and activities for students to engage in, such as: Fashion and Design, eSports, GSA, Photography, and more.
- Students participating in our Full-Time program have the opportunity to participate in various learning experiences including virtual field trips, hikes, and more.

“I’ve witnessed my student taking much more interest in and accountability for their learning. They’re keeping track of deadlines and ensuring they are participating in live lessons. VTVLC has truly been the best decision for this school year and I am pleased with the progress my student has made.”

VTVLC Parent

Supporting Virtual Students

Suggestions for Supporting Online Students

- **Designate a School Liaison for Virtual Students**
 - School Counselor / Flexible Pathways Coordinator
- **Provide a Dedicated Learning Space**
 - Library, Learning Labs, Flex Pathways Room
- **Monitor Student Progress**
 - Weekly check-ins
- **Offer Flexibility in Scheduling**
 - Schedule the student's virtual class in their daily schedule

The Student Experience

“ Taking online classes has always been very difficult for me personally as a learner. Every student learns differently though, and I have seen so many students succeed through VTVLC. Students are also supported by their online teacher as well as our flexible pathways coordinator, Ben Boyington.

If you are falling behind, the teacher will reach out and support you. If there is a crisis, they are there to find a solution and make arrangements that will fit into your life. Students are also able to go at their own pace. Some traditional classes often go too fast or too slow. VTVLC is not for everyone, but it is available for the students that learn better through this approach. ”

Jeff Thomas
Principal of White River Valley High School

Myths and Facts

Enrollment - Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Parents can sign up their children without notifying the school.

Fact: Not True! Full-Time student enrollment with VTVLC requires a completed Enrollment Form, signed by the local school to either support or decline the student's enrollment. An admissions meeting is scheduled with all stakeholders upon completion of this step.

B. OUTLINE OF SCHOOL SUPPORT: To Be Completed by District Administration

- Yes, we will support this student's access to the virtual learning flexible pathway with VTVLC while remaining enrolled at our school. Our school will claim the ADM and **pay the full-time program semester fee.**
- No, we will not support this student's access to the virtual learning flexible pathway with VTVLC. The student will be unenrolled from our school and enrolled in the VT Home Study program.

District Administrator Signature:

Date:

Attendance - Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Students engaged in flexible learning pathways offsite can't count toward attendance.

Fact: Not true! Students participating in off-site flexible pathways experiences under Act 77 are considered in attendance.

- See the [Elementary/Secondary School Register - Data Collection and Reporting Knowledge Base \(vermont.gov\)](#) 3.2.8 – **Students who are enrolled in your school but receiving educational services elsewhere are considered in attendance even on days when they are off campus. These students include** but are not limited to a Page in legislature who does regular work assignments, a student in a work program that is part of the school day, students participating in **off-site flexible pathways experiences under Act 77**, a student spending required days in an evaluation program at the Baird Center, a student at a regional career technical center or a student in a hospital receiving tutoring.

Home Study - Myth or Fact

Myth: VTVLC is a good way to engage home study students and families in your school community.

Fact: Yes! In fact, a school who partners with VTVLC (either as a teaching partner or non-teaching partner) can use their enrollments to support home study families and count those students in their ADM as a partial FTE. This can even be an effective strategy for developing a pathway to the in-person learning environment or full-time virtual learning.

- Remember, you can code home study students for ADM under Entry code 05

How can you help families determine whether virtual learning is the right flexible pathway?

- **Flexible Pathway Universal Samples**
 - [Student Sample: Virtual Blended Learning](#)
- **Flexible Pathway Talking Points**
 - [Flexible Pathways Toolkit Talking Points: Virtual Blended Learning](#)

Budget Planning for Virtual Students

Budgeting Tips

- **If you're a non-operating district**, consider talking with VTVLC about CDP and options for your K-12 residents.
- **Do the math**, is it better to pay a-la-carte beyond the “earned enrollments” with the non-teaching partner agreement OR should you become a teaching partner (or add an additional .2 FTE)?
- **Make visible for your school community when you have educators with an online Teaching-Partner assignment** by counting all students in an online class in the student-teacher ratio, including those they teach through VTVLC (to avoid the appearance that a school could afford a .2 FTE reduction in that content area).
- **Communicate timelines in advance** for student decision-making related to Flexible Pathways that ensure you have accurate counts for Average Daily Membership (ADM).

Virtual Solutions for Staffing Shortages

Custom Projects

VTVLC supports many schools and districts across the state in addressing teacher shortages or curriculum gaps through Custom Projects. A dedicated teacher facilitates the course in alignment with the local school district calendar, VTVLC staff provide training on how to support their online learners, and students experience an online class in a supportive environment.

Personalized Benefits to Students: Flexibility

“ Students can enroll in **personalized** online courses that may not be available locally. This becomes even more valuable as schools across the state face declining enrollment and staffing shortages.

In our district, for example, we’ve used virtual learning to **support small groups** of advanced math students by offering an Algebra I course that we couldn’t provide in person due to a lack of demand for a full-time teacher.

The flexibility of virtual learning has allowed us to **meet students’ needs effectively** despite local challenges.”

S. LaBombard
Bennington Rutland SU - Assistant Superintendent

Q&A and Next Steps

Resources

- [The What and Why of Act 77](#)
- [Flexible Pathways Overview](#)
- [Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative | Agency of Education](#)
- [Personalized Learning Planning Process | Agency of Education \(vermont.gov\)](#)
- [VTVLC Website](#)
- [VTVLC Course Catalog](#)
- [K-8 Enrollment Form for FT Students](#)
- [9-12 Enrollment Form for FT students](#)
- [VTVLC's Contact Sheet](#)