

Act 77: Flexible Pathways

Amplifying Learning in Vermont

Act 77 is important to me because **it gives me opportunities that have never been offered before.**

—Bridget Couture, student at Twinfield Union School

This is **such an exciting step forward** for our schools and students. We can't address challenges around engagement, relevance, and student responsibility for learning without taking on this issue of personalization.

—Rebecca Holcombe,
Vermont Secretary of Education

How can I learn more?

See your school counselor, check out the Vermont Agency of Education for an overview and links to information about Act 77 at education.vermont.gov/flexible-pathways, or visit shapingourfuturetogether.org.

What is Act 77?

Act 77 is a law passed in July 2013 to ensure that all Vermont students have access to high-quality educational experiences that will prepare them for life after graduation. Act 77 is grounded in what we now know about learning and the brain. The law also seeks to make school relevant to our changing world.

Why Act 77?

Everyone desires and deserves to be valued and known, to have a sense of purpose in life, and to pursue that purpose with intention. Act 77 is a means to this end for students, teachers, parents/guardians, and community members — who are all partners in learning:

- ♦ **Students** take ownership of their learning by co-creating and pursuing their high school path based on their interests, fostering a sense of purpose and a capacity to shape their future.
- ♦ **Teachers** co-create engaging learning opportunities, building on their deep desire to nurture a love of learning in all students and to be continuous learners themselves.
- ♦ **Parents/guardians** provide insight and input into their child's chosen pathway throughout their middle and high school years, helping their child best prepare for graduation and beyond.
- ♦ **Community members** benefit from increased opportunities to support and learn from young people as they do meaningful work through internships, service learning, independent study, and enrollment in college classes, building a more vital community where all members contribute and are valued.

What will learning look like?

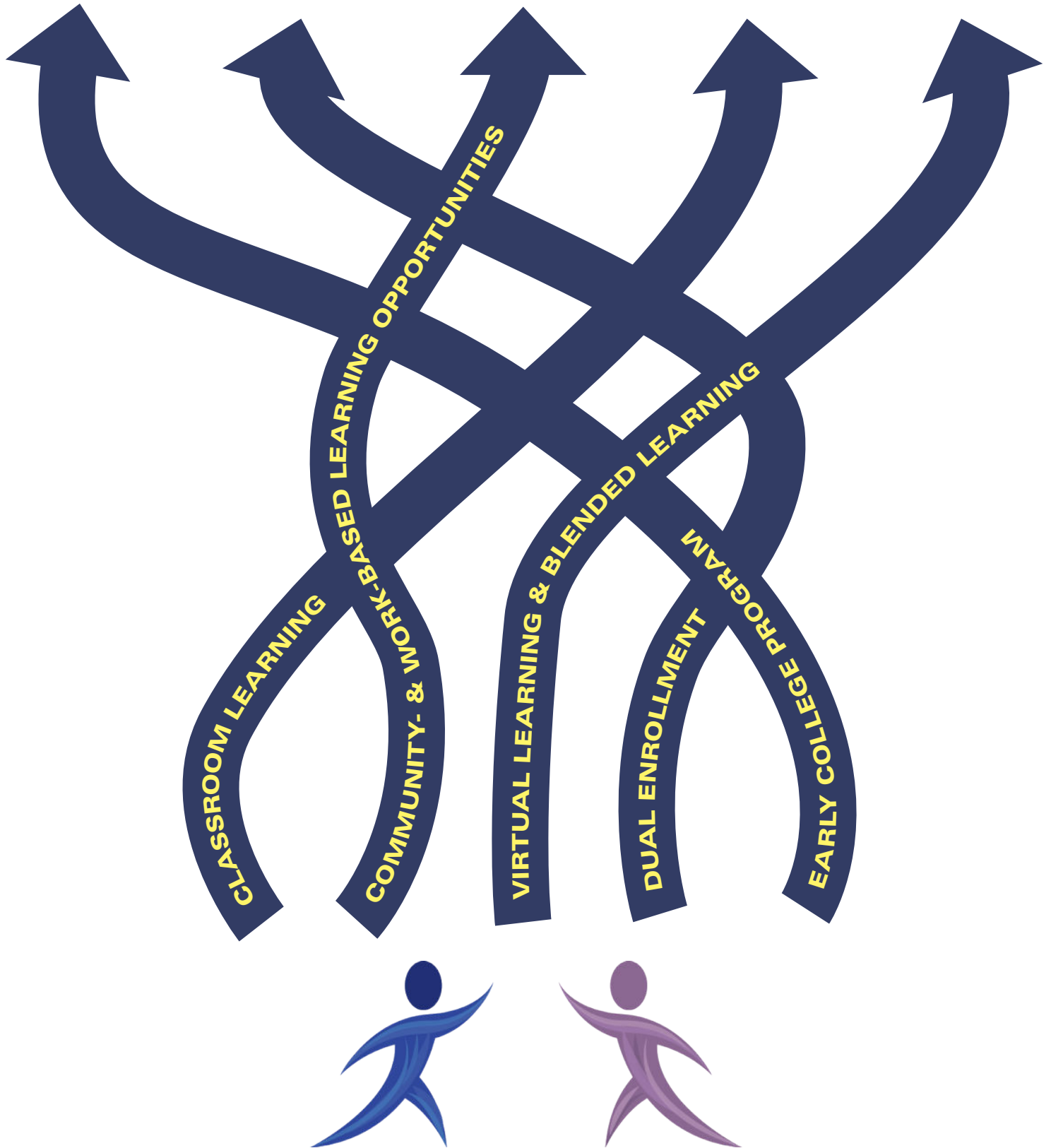
Act 77 adds options to the school classroom that can lead to high school completion and post-secondary readiness. There will be as many pathways as there are Vermont students. A student's choice of his or her individual pathway will be built on individual goals, learning styles, interests, and abilities. Each student, in partnership with teachers and parents/guardians, will customize their own engaging, rigorous, and relevant plan for graduation. The pathway options include:

- ♦ **Community- and work-based learning opportunities**, including general career, career technical education, internships and extended learning community-based options.
- ♦ **Virtual and blended learning** (a mix of online and traditional classroom learning) to take advantage of technology.
- ♦ **Dual enrollment** in two college classes in junior and/or senior years, earning high school and college credit at the same time.
- ♦ The **Early College Program** 12th-grade experience allows students to earn both a high school diploma and complete the first year of college at many Vermont colleges
- ♦ **School-based classroom learning** will continue to be a pathway option.

A student's pathway will be captured in a Personalized Learning Plan that is co-created on an annual basis by the student, teachers, and parents/guardians. This plan will evolve over the course of the individual's middle and high school years, as interests shift and grow. By the 2018–19 school year, all students in grades 7 through 12 will have Personalized Learning Plans.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION



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