



Vermont State College Merger: Special Education Programs

The Merger:

Demographic and economic challenges are impacting higher education institutions throughout the country. As the model of higher education shifts, teams of university personnel are combining Northern Vermont University, Castleton University, and Vermont Technical College and building Vermont State University (VtSU). This will transform higher education in Vermont and build a solid foundation for the future. As a singly accredited entity, VtSU will broaden and deepen offerings for students, reduce redundancy, and increase efficiency and fiscal sustainability.

Teacher Preparation:

The education department and teacher preparation programs are involved in this merger and all signs point to the development of an improved and even more inclusive program. The new elementary program will allow all candidates to earn licensure in elementary grades K-6 and special education grades K-8. Work is underway to create a secondary track that will also be framed by inclusive best practices.

Future Outcomes:

Students deciding to pursue a career as a general educator will have the knowledge, skills, and experience to help **all** students learn and thrive in their classrooms, particularly students with disabilities. If they decide to pursue a career as a special educator, they will be well-positioned to work closely with general education teachers to help **ALL** students, including students with disabilities, learn and thrive in inclusive general education learning environments. This dual licensure option will further assure that inclusive and equitable practices will be a mainstay of many classrooms here in Vermont and other states as well. In addition, it is anticipated that this new program will have a positive impact on the severe teacher shortages in special education here in Vermont.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the CEEDAR Center.

What is VT CEEDAR?

The VT CEEDAR (Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform) Team is a group of dedicated Vermont education professionals working to improve the preparation of teachers and leaders to serve students with disabilities. Our team includes representatives from local education agencies, Vermont educator preparation programs, parent and family advocates, the Agency of Education, and other local organizations. Our team receives support from the national CEEDAR Center, a U.S. Department of Education funded initiative that has supported personnel preparation efforts in more than 30 states.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT

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