



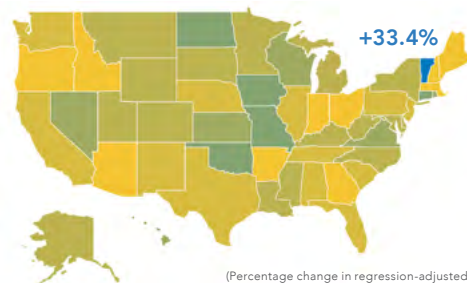
A PROMISE OF A FREE DEGREE

Thanks to the McClure Foundation’s Free Degree Promise through the state’s Early College Program at the Community College of Vermont (CCV), Vermont students who are entering grades 9–12 have the option of a free associate degree the year after high school graduation. The Foundation’s promise will cover tuition and fees after any federal and state financial aid, and provide enhanced advising as well as stipends to help with books, transportation, and any other costs associated with going to college.

Impact snapshot

In 2020, the Foundation promised Vermont’s entire high school class of 2020 one free course of their choosing at CCV. The promise resulted in the **doubling** of recent high school grad enrollment at CCV at a time when new enrollment at community colleges nationally was plummeting. That enrollment surge put Vermont on the map—literally:

Change in enrollment rates (2019–2020)



(Percentage change in regression-adjusted enrollment rates of the 2020 cohort compared to the 2019 cohort, by student state of residence)

-20 -15 -10 -5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30%

Source: College Board, "College Enrollment and Retention in the Era of Covid," June 2021.

