|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lead Partner(s)** | Agency of Education, Regional Development Corporations, Vermont Chamber of Commerce, local community youth organizations, Vermont Principals’ Association |
| **Milestones & Measures** | By FY2025, the committee presents policy suggestions to the SWDB to address barriers to youth employment. |
| **Committee Role** | A monitoring body of youth programs while serving as a resource on youth related programming.  |

**Milestones**

* By September of 2023, the committee will compile an inventory of state programs related to youth to be updated on a yearly basis and identify programming gaps.
* By September of 2023, the committee will develop an initial statewide mentorship list with the help of local chambers, RDCs, and school counselors.
* By January of 2024, the committee will begin executing an outreach plan to promote existing youth career events.
* By March of 2024, the committee will review the youth section of the annual report produced by the SWDB and create a recommended improvement plan for relevant agencies.
* By January of 2025, the committee will host or co-host no less than four youth career exploration events targeted at identified gaps in the system.
* For FY2025, as followed by a deadline set from the SWDB, the committee will propose policy suggestions and strategies that address barriers to youth. For example; transportation, mental health, socioeconomic status or underrepresented groups.

This committee will not only serve as an up-to-date resource for ongoing youth career and mentorship programming while acknowledging barriers to youth employment but fill identifiable programming and resource gaps by hosting youth engagement events.

**Long Term Action**

The committee will follow a parallel track of promoting and increasing access to existing work for youth, while identifying barriers and proposing areas where further investment and coordination is necessary to support youth. This work will happen through inventory and assessment of current state activities, while working with agencies, departments, and community partners to provide more opportunities for career exploration and development for our youngest Vermonters.

**The Solution**

Every day we lose on average six workers out of our workforce and three students out of our school system. With a population that is continuing to age, it is crucial that we support Vermont’s youth and their exploration of potential career pathways. As we look towards improving outcomes for our youth, there are geographic and socioeconomic disparities that need to be addressed. Due to the isolation brought on by the COVID-19 crisis and an increase in social media usage among youth, the mental health crisis has become more drastic. Additionally, the inequalities that come with socioeconomic status have been exacerbated. Vermont children, particularly those that are underprivileged, are falling behind. The combination of our aging workforce and onset of consequences exacerbated by the pandemic call for significant change.

**Youth**

**The Situation**