

Catamount Community Schools Collaborative (CCSC)

University + State Agency + Community Schools
Research-Policy-Practice Partnership (RP³)



College of Education
and Social Services



CCSC
CATAMOUNT COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE
University of Vermont



CCSC: Who We Are

The [Catamount Community Schools Collaborative \(CCSC\)](#) is a dynamic and longstanding research-policy-practice-partnership (RP3) between the University of Vermont's College of Education and Social Services, the Vermont Agency of Education, and state and community partners to support a sustainable ecosystem of community schools across Vermont.

11

CCSC Supported School
Districts/Supervisory
Unions

38

Vermont CCSC
Supported
Community Schools

8,966

Students in CCSC
supported
Community Schools



KEY



Act 67 Community
Schools (Est. 2021)



Community Schools
2.0 (Est. 2025)



VT School-Based
Health Centers



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Catamount Community Schools Collaborative: University Assisted Community School (UACS)

CCSC supporting community schools implementation and sustainability through long-term, mutually beneficial, democratic partnerships via 4 main strategies. We are aligned with National UACS but unique!

Applied Research

Student Internships, Placements and Support

Professional Development + Outreach

Grant Funding + Resource Provision



CCSC Student Internships: Place-based Learning

Catamount Community Schools Collaborative

UVM Student Internship Placements

2024 - Present

	Mental Health / Psych	Food Systems	Public Health	PComm / CDAE	Place-Based Education	Graduate Education	Summer Residential Internship Cohorts
Cabot School	Clinical Mental Health Grad Student						
North Country Supervisory Union		Food Systems Undergrad	MPH Student			SHIE (Doctoral)	
Vergennes Elementary	Clinical Mental Health Grad Student						
White River Valley Middle School			MPH Student		Indiv. Designed Major Undergrad		Interdisciplinary Undergrads (12)
Hazen Union School			Public Health Undergrad				Interdisciplinary Undergrad (1)
CCSC				PComm Undergrads (2)		SHIE (Doctoral) HESA (Masters)	
Burlington School District	Psychology Undergraduate						
Essex North Supervisory Union				Public Comm. Undergraduate			



Student Internships: High Impact, Broad Reach

Interdisciplinary Experiential Learning

CCSC Student Interns as UVM Ambassadors

Student Identity and Career Development

Cultivate Sense of Purpose through Impact



**WRVSU
Summer
Internship
Cohort**

University of Vermont
Ledy Institute for Rural Partnerships

**UVM Students Support Community
Schools in White River Valley**

STUDENT SUCCESS UVM IMPACT
Share
July 27, 2025
By Peter Koerella

"So that's definitely been a way that I have grown since this internship has started...and I think in terms of my future career, I think Community Schools is something I had heard like whispers about and like, talked about a little bit through different friends being in education or wanting to go into education... And then getting this full experience of seeing the value in it and seeing how impactful it is and the relationships I've made with the senior [citizens] in the area and the children has made me really consider this market and like seeing if there's anything out there that I could possibly join once I graduate."

**- UVM Food Systems Undergraduate
North Country Supervisory Union
Newport Center, VT**

"I have so enjoyed absorbing all the knowledge I can, and it's made me even think that, like, maybe this is what I want to do for grad school....like an agroecology kind of a thing. Like I am rethinking my major because I love this. So yeah, I would say I feel great living here. I've learned things that I really couldn't learn just from a computer, and I've really enjoyed getting to know this area too, and like the surrounding areas. I feel like I have more Vermont knowledge now."

**- UVM Public Health Undergraduate
Interning with Community Gardens
Bethel, VT**



"I just think the world is so vast...there's just so many things going on and it's hard- like it's easy to feel like you're kind of getting drowned out by all that noise. But doing the work I did this summer, I was like able to see how much work that I was able to accomplish in a few days...in a public space where people were commenting on it and using it and I guess that's been really cool and I think that's something that's really important about the rural community that we were in." UVM English Major interning with Public Library"

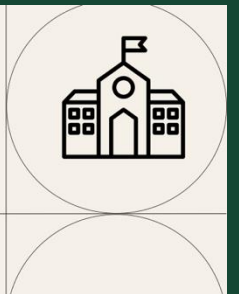
**- UVM Undergraduate English Major
Interning with Bethel Public Library
Bethel, VT**

PRACTICE RELEVANT SCHOLARSHIP: SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS

- CCSC provides technical assistance via School Health Experts and co-facilitation of state wide SBHC peer collaborative network
- Provide 1:1 on site mentoring and support for community schools interested in establishing or bolstering SBHC with local provider
- Development of community facing practitioner oriented resources: digital story and implementation guides
- Community engaged research: role of school nurses in CS and SBHC and "seat time"



Implementation Model of a
School-Based Health Center at a
Community School in Vermont



A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a light-colored sleeve, using a knife to slice a green cucumber on a bright green cutting board. The cutting board is placed on a stainless steel surface. In the background, there is a large stainless steel pot, a glass of water, and a red container. The text "Multi-Generational Meals at Newport Town School" is overlaid in white on the image.

Multi-Generational Meals
at Newport Town School

Centering Practice: Multi-generational meals at Newport Town School



"It's like Christmas, you gather your family around and you enjoy having fun with them. It's very sweet and it makes you feel at home."



MULTIGENERATIONAL MEALS PROGRAM
ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY &
BUILDING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

 **575** MEALS SERVED TO ELDERLY AND STUDENTS
AT **17** COMMUNITY SCHOOL MEAL EVENTS FROM SEPT. 2024 TO JUNE, 2025.
 **180** TO GO MEALS DELIVERED TO ELDERLY IN THEIR HOME WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

 TAKE OUT



CCSC Campus Partners: Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships

Our Mission

The Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships operates alongside the Office of Engagement with the mission to build collaborations between the University of Vermont and state partners for the benefit of our rural places.

How We Work



Grants
Grants to fund partnership-driven solutions to address the needs of our rural communities



Engagement Initiatives
Partnerships that provide ongoing service to Vermont communities



Convenings
Gathering people together to build connections and share knowledge

Every Vermont community deserves an opportunity to thrive. The Leahy Institute is pulling together the kind of partnerships with UVM in Vermont that support creative, long-lasting local solutions.

Patrick Leahy,
— Retired Senator, Vermont



By the Numbers

- Regenerative Agriculture - \$1.22 M
- Healthy Ecosystems - \$0.65 M
- Community Schools - \$0.56 M
- Policy and Governance - \$0.55 M
- Resilient Energy Systems - \$0.53 M
- Health Care Access - \$0.48 M
- Transit and Housing Solutions - \$0.17 M
- Remote and Coworking Practices - \$0.05 M



2,328

Total Partners Engaged

36

Summer Interns Supported

Our impact stretches across the state's 14 counties, including 38 individual areas and 15 statewide projects. Our key focus areas include:



Regenerative Agriculture



Community Schools



Transit and Housing Solutions



Remote and Co-Working Practices



Resilient Energy Systems



Healthy Ecosystems



Access to Health Care in Rural Areas



Policy and Governance



University of Vermont

Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships

Key Takeaways

Rural UACS is possible

CCSC as a hub and spoke and match maker

Think outside traditional disciplines

Engage with strategic campus partners

Braid and blend funding

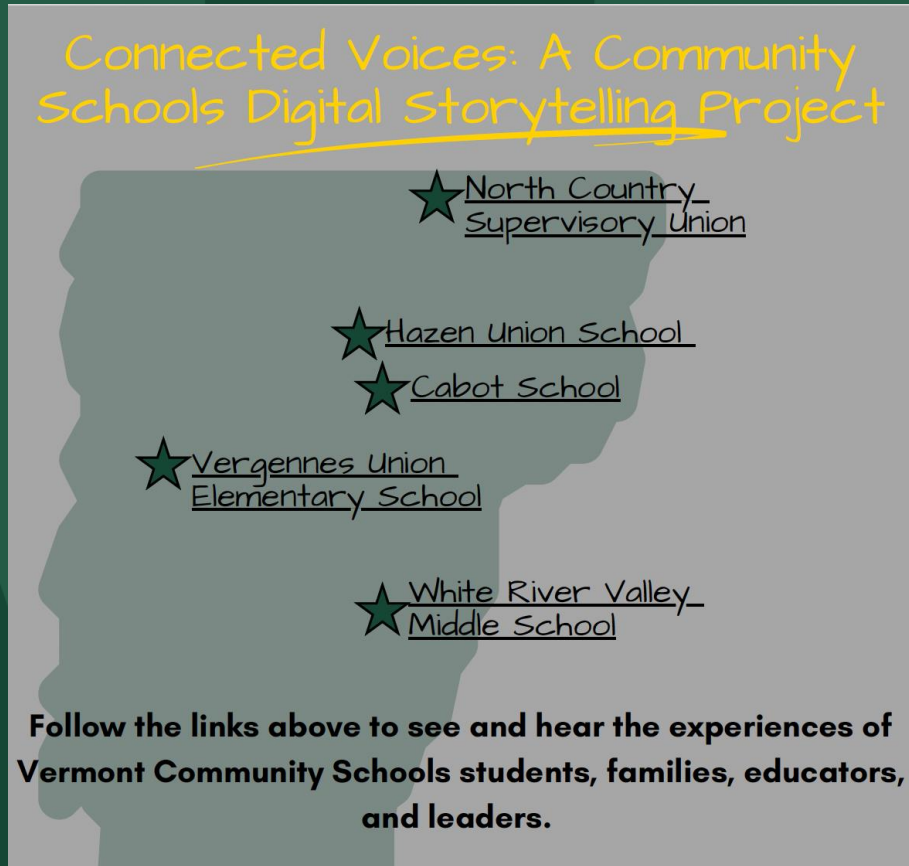
Translating the work across audiences (university,
school, academic, national)

THANK YOU!

Questions? Comments?
Email: bgarnett@uvm.edu



Follow the QR code to learn more about the
Catamount Community Schools Collaborative!



Click on the [LINK](#) to engage with our community schools digital stories!