



vtaeyc

Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



Dear Friend,

In June of 2023, Vermont enacted Act 76 – a historic, ongoing investment in our early childhood education system. VTAEYC's work is reflected in this legislation in several important ways. Our members contacted elected officials. Our leadership testified about the content of the then-bill as it moved through committees, and we helped arrange testimony from early childhood educators from all settings. Our career advancement team's work strengthened the case for investment in educational pathways. Our Advancing as a Profession initiative's research into minimum compensation standards informed the RAND report commissioned by the legislature. There is no doubt our collective advocacy helped shape this legislation for the better.

At the same time, VTAEYC continued to design, expand, and deliver programs; evolve our initiatives; present to state and national audiences; and grow our staff. We also secured the contract to administer Vermont's new System for Program Access to Resources for Quality Supports (SPARQS). This big expansion is perfectly aligned with our values centering equity, excellence, and early childhood educators themselves.

After being involved with VTAEYC as a member, Board member, and Board president, I became Executive Director in March 2023. I am honored to work with an excellent team, visionary Board, and steadfast partners. I couldn't be prouder to lead this organization, the early childhood educators it represents, and the children, families, and communities they serve. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Sharron Harrington
VTAEYC Executive Director



Our Mission

VTAEYC advances equity and excellence in early childhood education with early childhood educators as our foundation. As a membership organization, we provide resources and advocate for policies that move early childhood education forward now and for the future.

2022-23 Board Members

Officers

Christina Goodwin
Meghan Meszkat
Rebecca Bishop Ware
Reeva Murphy

Members at Large

Sharon Easterling
Christine Johnson
Ella McCarthy
Stephanie McDaniel
Thembi Muhlauri
Stephanie Muñoz Wells
Christina Nelson
Danny Sawtelle
Nancy Steeley

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Advocacy

Su White of Quarry Hill School advocates for passing Act 76 at Montpelier's State House



VTAEYC President Christina Goodwin joins legislators to address the media about Act 76's passage



Meeting with Rep. Becca Balint at the NAEYC Policy Forum

OPINION
**Sharron Harrington:
Celebrate visibility. It's
what's best for young
children.**



We'll focus on what's developmentally appropriate for children, and that includes welcoming all members of our communities — the people who make up our children's families — for who they are.

- Early childhood educators from all settings testified and advocated to strengthen Act 76
- VTAEYC issued a strong response to national attacks on developmentally appropriate practice
- Early childhood educators honed skills and met with Vermont's full legislative contingent at NAEYC's Policy Forum
- Advancing as a Profession research-based recommendations for a professional minimum compensation standard were included in the RAND report commissioned by the legislature to inform Act 76

Career Development

- The Curtis Fund Commitment launches: In our scholarship program partnership with The Curtis Fund and the Community College of Vermont, graduates of Vermont's Career and Technical Education centers may receive a stipend and full scholarship toward a Child Care Certificate at CCV
- T.E.A.C.H.® Early Childhood Vermont celebrated the graduation of our first bachelor's degree-model scholarship cohort
- The Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program expanded eligibility to allow up to \$4,000 in annual student loan repayment relief to more Vermont ECEs
- VTAEYC staff Brenda Schramm, Paula Nadeau, and Mandi Menard presented on the Vermont ECE Apprenticeship Program model at multiple national conferences

“Being on both sides of the Apprenticeship Program has been so rewarding! I offered my skills and interest in mentoring Jasmin because she wanted to go back to school and I had already gone through the program. I am so proud of how well she's been doing and how dedicated she is in this field. **Thank you for giving people the opportunity and resources to become excellent early education teachers. I can't recommend the program enough!**”

Katlyn Morse, Mentor - Adventures in Early Learning



Highlights



VTAIEYC is growing!

Clockwise from top left: Anne Simonds, Julie Buechler, Victoria Ward, Krysta Griffith, Dacia Ostlund, Sharron Harrington, Beth Wallace, Abby Fish, Brenda Metzler, Brenda Schramm, Heather Martin, Emily Hough, Mandi Menard, Nikki Bearor, Paula Nadeau, Samantha Smith, Meg Atwood, Arianna Dayharsh

In early 2023, VTAIEYC secured the contract from Vermont's Child Development Division to administer the new **System for Program Access to Resources for Quality Supports (SPARQS)**. SPARQS is phasing in throughout our 2024 fiscal year. The purpose of this system is to support a culture of quality throughout Vermont's early childhood education programs.



Launched a completely revamped **VTAIEYC.org**



Welcomed the second cohort of our **Exchange**

fellowship program. Inaugural fellow Naomi Alfini published an essay in *KidsVT* based on her Exchange research

Introduced five **new** Annual Awards: **Children's Champion, Distinguished Service, Outstanding Member, Emerging Leader, and ECE Student of the Year**



Thanks to volunteer and sponsor support, VTAIEYC hosted an in-person, sold-out Annual Conference in Burlington



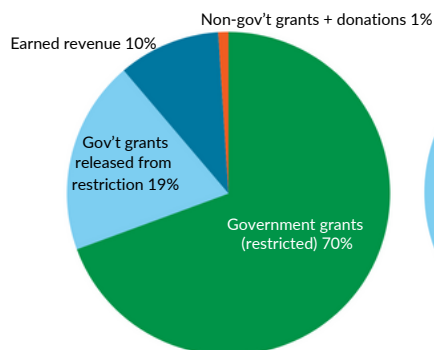
Advancing as a Profession

- 278 participants in new sessions
- Recognized for workforce leadership by the Commission on Professional Excellence in ECE
- Susan Titterton and Kaitie Northey publish "Implementing an Audacious Vision: A Collaborative Approach Across Vermont Higher Education Programs in *Young Children*"
- More than 600 ECEs sign on to say "I'm In!" for supporting an early childhood education profession

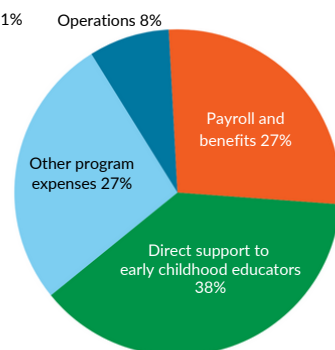
I'm in!

"I've waited my entire almost-20-year career for this."
- Early Childhood Educator

FY2023 Revenue



FY2023 Expenses



VTAIEYC's annual budget increased by **25%**: from \$1,509,835 in FY2022 to \$1,887,867 in FY2023