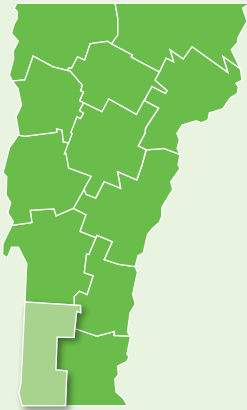


# Bennington Region

## About the Region



The Bennington Region is led by a diverse, involved council that annually prioritizes the outcomes in Bennington's regional plan using current data and regional concerns. 43.7% of children under the age of 6 in the region live below 200% of poverty, which can be a determining factor in children being ready for school. Children receiving free or reduced lunch are less likely to be ready for school in five developmental areas. Bennington has again seen an increase in the number of children in DCF custody.

### REGIONAL PRIORITIES

To counteract these effects, Bennington has focused on:

- Continual professional development for early childhood providers. Because of this focus, Bennington has a high rate of STARS participation, which increased to 83.6%.
- Building strong social-emotional skills has been a long-standing priority in the Bennington region. The professional development committee has provided knowledge and skills in this area, leading to environments that promote social emotional health.

## Current Status

### CHILD POPULATION

*under age 9*

The percent<sup>†</sup> of children under 9 years old **increased** from 45.2% (3,436) in 2010 to **46.5%** (3,230) in 2016.

INCREASED TO  
**46.5%**

*†Denominator is children under 18 years old.*

### CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

*under age 6*

The percent of children under 6 years old living in poverty<sup>\*\*</sup> **decreased** from 52.7% (1,115) in 2010 to **43.7%** (904) in 2016.

DECREASED TO  
**43.7%**

*\*\*Living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level*

### CHILDREN IN DCF CUSTODY

*under age 9 (rate per 1,000)*

The rate<sup>†</sup> of children under 9 years old (per 1,000) in DCF custody **increased** from 7.2 (24) in 2012 to **13.9** (45) in 2016.

INCREASED TO  
**13.9**

*†As of September 30th each year.*

### STARS PARTICIPATION

The percent of regulated child care, early learning, and afterschool programs with 1-5 STARS<sup>†</sup> **increased** from 27.1% (29) in 2010 to **83.6%** (61) in 2018.

INCREASED TO  
**83.6%**

*†As of June each year.*

## Percent of All Students Ready for Kindergarten

### SUPERVISORY UNION/DISTRICT

SCHOOL YEAR 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR 2017-18

Battenkill Valley SU 95.7% 70.0% 83.3%

Bennington Rutland SU 87.5% 91.7% 87.8%

Southwest Vermont SU 68.2% 73.0% 61.4%