



120 State Street, Montpelier VT 05620-2501
(p) 802-828-3135 | (f) 802-828-3140

The House Committee on Corrections and Institutions asked how the Secretary of Education views the role of the Agency of Education relative to the Community High School of Vermont. Our relationship to the Community High School of Vermont is governed by Title 28 V.S.A. § 120. By statute:

- The Community High School is established within the Department of Corrections for the education of persons who have not completed secondary education and who are committed to the custody of the Commissioner. The Community High School accesses public funds to pay for students in its high school.
- The education program of the Community High School of Vermont shall be approved by the State Board of Education as an independent school under 16 V.S.A. § 166. Initial review against the SBE rules is conducted by the Agency, on behalf of the State Board of Education.
- The Community High School of Vermont shall comply with the school quality standards provided by 16 V.S.A. § 165, and shall be coordinated with adult education, special education, and technical education. This includes participating in state assessments and accountability, as well as in Agency monitoring related to Federal IDEA (special education), Title 1 and methods of administration for programs receiving federal monies (including career and technical programs). This involves review of compliance with civil rights laws, Title 6 & 9 as well as ADA and Section 504. For this, the Agency reviews policies, publications, facilities, enrollment trends and any office of civil rights complaints.
- The Commissioner of Corrections shall appoint a Director of Corrections Education, who shall be licensed as an administrator under 16 V.S.A. Chapter 51. (The Agency supervises licensing.)
- In terms of curriculum, by statute, the education program shall offer a minimum course of study, as defined in 16 V.S.A. § 906, and special education programs as required in 16 V.S.A. chapter 101 at each correctional facility and Department service center. The Agency is responsible for Special Education approvals.