



RIVER VALLEY TECHNICAL CENTER

“Educating Today’s Students For Tomorrow’s Careers”

February 20, 2015

Dear Vermont Legislator,

I am writing you this letter during very interesting times for the education system in the State of Vermont. Talk has been of the consolidation of smaller school districts to form larger districts in order to reduce the costs; this may not be true in all situations. As I write this letter, I am uncertain as to how this discussion may or may not affect technical centers in Vermont. I have recently been appointed as Superintendent/Director for the River Valley Technical Center School District (RVTC), one of three independent technical center school districts in the state. In 2007 the formation of our district was voted on by the voters in the ten towns that make up Black River Union High School, Green Mountain Union High School, Bellows Falls Union High School, and Springfield High School. Additionally we serve the towns of Baltimore, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru and Weston. We also serve the Fall Mountain Regional School District in New Hampshire, which was granted full voting rights on our board at our Annual Meeting in 2009.

RVTC is a very small district, serving just over 300 students with 24 faculty and staff but we have been able to very responsibly manage our costs. Below is a chart that outlines our annual local budgets since our first day as a district in July of 2007.

RVTC Budget Year	Local Budget Expenditures	Total Dollars Increase or Decrease	Percentage Increase/Decrease	Student FTE's As of October 15
2008-2009*	\$2,613,515			169.33
2009-2010	\$2,685,470	\$71,955	2.75%	164.50
2010-2011	\$2,711,130	\$25,660	0.96%	164.00
2011-2012	\$2,648,121	(\$63,009)	-2.32%	142.33
2012-2013	\$2,551,648	(\$96,473)	-3.64%	134.38
2013-2014	\$2,539,171	(\$12,477)	-0.49%	152.00
2014-2015	\$2,524,876	(\$14,295)	-0.56%	153.00
2015-2016	\$2,440,793	(\$84,083)	-3.33%	TBA
Proposed				
*First Budget as an Independent Technical Center District	Total	(\$172,722)	-6.64%	

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 at the HOWARD DEAN EDUCATION CENTER

As you can see, RVTC has been very responsible in our management of costs since our district's inception in 2007. I believe this is because we have a focused mission and our independent status allows us to focus on this mission. RVTC isn't required to offer the full array of classes a typical high school must offer in order for students to graduate.

I will be at the Legislative Breakfast at the Holiday Inn Express in Springfield on Monday, February 24, 2014 and would be happy to answer any questions you may have about our experience.

Sincerely,

Scott D. Farr
Superintendent/Director
River Valley Technical Center