

(01/28/2015; DRS)

Career Technical Education – Overview *draft!*

Note: John Fischer, Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Education, provided a detailed overview of CTE in Vermont to the House Committee on Education. His written testimony can be found on that Committee’s website.

17 H.S. Career Technical Centers

- Of that number:
 - Most are affiliated with a host high school
 - 3 are governed by their own board of directors and are operated as distinct school districts – Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center SD (Middlebury); River Valley Technical Center SD (Springfield); and Southwest VT Regional Technical Center SD (Bennington)
 - 2 are actually “Comprehensive High Schools” – Applied Technology Center at St Johnsbury Academy and Lyndon Institute Technical Center; (*In addition to 17 CTEs* – there are two public schools that are CHS: Canaan Memorial High School and Missisquoi Valley UHSD (Swanton))
 - The primary difference between a CTE center and a CHS is that a CHS does not make a separate assessment / charge tuition solely for technical programs in the manner described for CTE centers below; rather, payment for access to career technical programs at a CHS is part of the tuition paid to attend the high school itself
 - In some instances, a CHS offers fewer programs than a CTE center
 - In each instance, they charge the full amount of HS tuition (and are not limited to the statewide average tuition amount) because the first two are “approved independent schools functioning as area career technical centers” and the second two are public schools
- In addition, at the postsecondary level, CCV and VTC are qualified to accept federal CTE funding

16 CTE Service Regions –

- The State Board assigns each district with high school students to one of 16 CTE service regions
 - Exception # 1: Students at Bellows Fall Union High School District (in Windham Northeast SU) may attend either the Southeastern Vermont Career Education Center (Brattleboro) or the River Valley Technical Center (Springfield)
 - Exception #2: The State Board of Education may approve an out-of-state CTE center for students who are enrolled in a school that is geographically isolated
 - 16 V.S.A. § 1531(c) specifically authorizes students in the Windham Southwest Supervisory Union to be enrolled at public expense in the Charles H. McCann Technical School (North Adams, MA) or the Franklin County Technical School (Turners Falls, MA)

Tuition / Funding of CTE

Tuition – 16 V.S.A. §§ 1552(a) & (d) and 1561(b):

- The host high school assesses tuition to the sending districts
 - The tuition reflects the actual cost and tuition is reduced proportionally for part-time attendance
 - Tuition charged to a sending school district reflects the average of the district's three prior years' FTE at the CTE center
- The sending school district includes 100% of the cost of tuition in its budget presented to the voters and is responsible for 100% of the cost.
- Tuition is delivered to the CTE as follows:
 - The State pays the CTE center an amount equal to 87% of the Base Education Amount (BEA) per FTE AND subtracts that amount (per FTE) from the amount due to the sending district under its adopted budget
 - The CTE then bills the sending district for the remainder of the tuition it owes

Tuition Reduction Grant – 16 V.S.A. §§ 1552(c) and 1561(c):

- The State pays an amount equal to 35% of the BEA directly from the Education Fund to each CTE center per FTE student
- In order to reduce tuition costs, this amount is subtracted when calculating the tuition charged to a sending school district

Salary Assistance Grant – 16 V.S.A. § 1565:

- The State also pays an amount directly from the Education Fund to each CTE center per as salary assistance grants in order to reduce tuition costs charged to sending districts
- The grants are available in connection with the salaries paid for the director of CTE; the person whose principal duty is to provide guidance services to students; the person whose principal duty is to find job training opportunities to students; an assistant director for adult education; and an assistant CTE director in some instances

Transportation Assistance – 16 V.S.A. § 1563: The State pays this directly from the Education Fund to districts that provide transportation to and from CTE centers