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MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Catherine Toll, Chair House Committee on Appropriations
From: Rep. David Sharpe, Chair House Committee on Education
Date: March 22, 2017
Subject: Appropriation for Community High School of Vermont

The House Committee on Education respectfully requests that the Committee on Appropriations not approve an increase from the fiscal year 2017 appropriation to the Community High School of Vermont (CHSVT) until the CHSVT has addressed each recommendation set forth in the “Community High School of Vermont Summary of Commendations and Recommendations following New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Commission on Independent Schools,” dated November 7, 2016, and demonstrates to the House Committee on Education that the following NEASC recommendations have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Committee:

- “The school should address the culture shift within the school and its role within the Department of Corrections with the goal of helping the corrections community to embrace the CHSVT mission as a school that is, designed to meet the educational needs of Vermont offenders.
- Continued work is needed regarding the timely and accurate assessment and referral of all offenders with a criminogenic need to education and/or employment. It appears that standardization of this process is needed. The process should help to provide consistency and improve the time frames that some students are currently waiting to be referred and enrolled. Greater communication and coordination between the case managers and the education faculty will be needed for this system to be successful. Additional training may be necessary related to new statutory and procedural systems and databases.
- The need for ongoing communication on all levels (leadership to faculty, program to program, teacher to teacher, DOC to the CHSVT, CHSVT to DOC etc.) remains vital and should be consistently emphasized and enhanced in order to help the CHSVT function effectively.
- Develop a plan to track graduates and released students, gather a variety of data, communicate the data to stakeholders to improve the support of programs, and use that data to improve programming for current students.”

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

