

TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: House Education Committee  
FROM: Debora Price, Educator Quality Division Director, Agency of Education  
TOPIC: S.257, Draft 8.1 Section 11 re CTE teacher licensure  
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**Criteria for Licensure:** The Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators establishes the criteria by which educators are licensed. In the case of CTE educators, the requirements are:

1. Meet CTE Endorsement competencies and Core Teaching Standards through recommendation from an approved program, Transcript Review or Peer Review,
2. 4 years (8,000 hours) of work experience in the career cluster field
3. Pass Praxis Core or the equivalent, a basic skills reading, writing and math assessment most frequently taken by college students in the first or second year, applicable to all licensure candidates.

**Pathways to Licensure:** In Vermont, there are three ways for CTE educators to obtain initial licensure: traditional route, reciprocity and Peer Review.

**Traditional Route-** An applicant can secure a recommendation from an approved Education Preparation Program for a license and the appropriate endorsements following the completion of the program. For CTE educators, many will follow this path through Vermont Technical College (VTC) Career Technical Educator Preparation Program which is approved by the VSBPE to recommend licensure.

**Reciprocity**

1. An educator with a license from a state in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement can have the same license here with little extra effort for a \$50 fee plus the license if awarded.
2. An educator with a license from a state that is not in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement can have the same license here by completing Transcript Review for a \$50 fee plus the license if awarded.

**Alternate Route-** An educator can also obtain a recommendation for licensure by completing the Peer Review Program. Every Peer Review candidate completes a portfolio that is reviewed by experienced teachers who hold the same position in a school and hold an interview with the candidate. Acceptance into the Peer Review Program requires educators hold a BA/BS/BFA and successfully pass Praxis core (or alternate test scores) and Praxis II (if applicable). This pathway costs \$1200 to enroll, substantially less than earning an additional degree.

**Career Change:** In addition, educators may alter their pathway over the course of their career. Many CTE instructors begin their career under an Apprenticeship License.

**Apprenticeship License (Rule 5340 )-** Apprenticeship licenses are designed for prospective educators who currently

1. Hold a high school diploma, or the equivalent, and have six (6) years of work (12,000 hours) experience in the career cluster field or
2. Hold an associate's degree in any field, or the equivalent, and have four (4) years of work experience in the career cluster they wish to teach.

These individuals may be employed by CTE centers for up to 4 years while they complete the requirements for initial licensure. Most frequently, they do this through Vermont Technical College as enrollment in these courses is most often paid for by the technical center out of their general budget.

**Additional Endorsements:** Other CTE educators may begin their career teaching in a completely different endorsement area or for a different career cluster. These educators may add endorsements through transcript review or Peer Review without going back to school.