

<p><b>REGIONAL TECHNICAL ACADEMY INITIATIVE</b></p> <p><b>Their hopes are in your hands.</b></p>	<u><b>Why?</b></u>	<u><b>How you can help</b></u>	<u><b>Project Details</b></u>
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**PROJECT CHRONOLOGY**

May 1998	<b>Act 138 enacted.</b> Three technical education pilots were authorized through competitive bid process to focus on reform measures related to governance, funding and access.
Jul. 1998	<b>Lake Champlain Workforce Investment Board</b> (division of the Chamber and GBIC) on behalf of the two local host school boards (Burlington Board of School Commissioners and Essex Union #46 High School District Board) <b>applied for a pilot grant from the Vermont Department of Education.</b> Grant concept developed by Richard Flies, Former Director of the Essex Technical Center and Marcia Baker, Former Director of the Burlington Technical Center to consolidate both technical centers, offer sequential and integrated secondary academic/ technical curriculum organized by career academies, and create new funding and governance mechanisms. Unanimous support for application from both local host school boards (Burlington and Essex) and the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce's Workforce Investment Board.
Sept. 1998	Technical Education Pilot <b>grant awarded</b> as part of a competitive process. (3 funded pilots from 12 applications statewide.)
Spring 1999	<b>Independent study</b> conducted by the Vermont Department of Education <b>ranks Essex and Burlington Technical Centers as 1 &amp; 2 in need of new construction</b> as stated in the "Vermont Construction Priorities Report" along with Springfield, Newport and Brattleboro.



Fall 1998- Jan. 2001	<b>Committee structure developed</b> and implemented. Technical Education Committee created to manage pilot activities. Curriculum Design Team formed with faculty members from two technical centers and region's middle and high schools.
Jan.-May 1999	Worked with legislature to secure capital funds to conduct a feasibility study. <b>Funds secured from state.</b>
Jun. 1999	Members of Curriculum Design Team attend integrated curriculum conference in Beaver Creek, Colorado. <b>Curriculum Framework began to emerge.</b>
Jan. 2000	<b>Phase I Feasibility Study completed</b> and submitted to legislative committees offering favorable recommendation of new technical education institution. Early governance model emerged.
Jan.-May 2000	Work with legislative officials to secure continued support for the pilot project. <b>Funds secured for Phase II study.</b>
Jan. 2001	Phase II Study delivered to legislature. Additional governance and funding models emerged. Work on curriculum framework continued. <b>Work began for Phase III.</b>  WIB and two local host school boards signed a <b>Joint Resolution forming independent Regional Technical Academy Committee.</b>
Feb. 2001	<b>Committee members appointed</b> by three boards. Sub-Committees are formed and begin meeting.
Mar.-Aug. 2001	Committee met monthly and sometimes weekly. <b>Preliminary Report issued including recommendations on required legislation.</b>
May 2001	<b>Act 33</b> authorizing regional governance boards and regional technical education school districts for technical centers was <b>enacted.</b>  <b>Capital bill appropriation for \$250,000</b> to finalize governance proposal, begin <b>site selection</b> process, finalize an alternative funding mechanism on condition that the <b>two technical centers consolidate</b> into one institution.
Jun.-Jul. 2001	Continued work on recommendations for proposed school.

Aug.-Sept. 2001	<b>Communications Outreach plan implemented.</b> Committee members meet with school boards, selectboards, state organizations, superintendents, principals, key legislators, and Vermont Department of Education officials, to gain feedback and garner support.
Oct. 2001	<b>Final Report issued</b> and distributed widely through the Chittenden County & BFA-Fairfax communities.
Nov.-Dec. 2001	Work with legislators to sponsor a bill that created an alternative funding mechanism, <b>defined Regional Technical Academy as a four-year diploma-granting institution</b> , and expanded definition of regional governance to include Technical Academies.
Jan. 2002	<b>H.553 drafted and introduced</b> with four House members sponsoring. A Senate version of the bill was also introduced with all six Chittenden County Senators as sponsors.
Feb.-May 2002	Lengthy <b>discussions about technical education funding, vision for the state, etc. within House Education Committee</b> over course of several weeks leading to many changes to H.553.
Late May 2002	<b>H.553 adapted by House Education Committee to include a technical education study</b> by the Vermont Department of Education and State Board of Education to determine if two or four year technical education models were to be supported.
Jun. 2002	<b>Capital bill appropriates \$750,000 in support of planning for a consolidated technical center in Chittenden County.</b> Monies to support final site selection process, option on land, finalization of governance proposal, funding mechanism, impact study, development of program of study and educational specifications.
Jul.-Oct. 2002	Continued planning of technical academy. <b>Site Selection</b> process continues and is <b>narrowed down to two sites.</b> Funding mechanism (second version) developed. <b>Program of study developed</b> with educational consultant. Fiscal impact study completed by consultants Deb Brighton and Tom Kavet. <b>Survey of over 8,500 secondary students in Chittenden County and Fairfax conducted.</b>
Oct. 2002	<b>Public forums hosted</b> in communities to present and explain the fiscal impact study, answer questions from local school board members, parents.

Nov.-Dec. 2002	<b>Work with state representatives to sponsor new legislation to support an alternative funding mechanism and diploma-granting authority</b> statewide for technical education and enabling governance legislation and finance structure for Regional Technical Academy.
Dec. 2002	<b>Final site selected.</b> Final draft of legislative report completed.
Jan. 2003	Regional Technical Academy Committee published their 2003 <b>Legislative Report with recommendations on governance, funding, impact study, site selection information, and program of study.</b>  <b>Introduction of H.65 and S.56</b> in Vermont Legislature.
Jan.-Jun. 2003	Legislative efforts made to pass <b>H.65</b> to authorize two full years of technical education resulting in a high school diploma. The bill was revised and renumbered as a committee bill H.479. It also included an alternative funding mechanism for technical education. After several weeks debate, the bill <b>passed the House Education Committee and was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee</b> for their consideration. The bill remains in that committee.
Jan. 2003	The Lake Champlain Lifelong Learning Fund, Inc. on behalf of the Regional Technical Academy planning committee received an <b>Earmark Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to support curriculum development.</b> Twelve teachers and administrators were recruited to develop four integrated units.
Feb.-May 2003	The <b>Building Design Team was formed</b> and began meeting twice a month to determine the most appropriate use of the facility. The team included staff from the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services, Vermont Department of Education, the architect, building developer, educators and employers.  RTA Executive Committee reviewed the governance proposal with the RTA attorney and revised several sections.

Jun. 2003	<p>Joint In-service with technical center faculties hosted at the Clarion to <b>review the preliminary square footage plan</b> by programs. Drawings were presented to educators for their comment.</p> <p>An initial <b>draft of the governance proposal is submitted to the Vermont Department of Education</b> for their review. A meeting is held with the Vermont Department of Education counsel and Commissioner to gain their input.</p> <p>First drafts of the four integrated curriculum units were presented for review. Work to put them online began.</p> <p><b>Letters were sent to all high school district school board chairs inviting them to send a representative to the RTA Committee.</b></p>
Jul. 2003	<p><b>Input from faculty members incorporated into design.</b> Yields revised drawings. Design Team reviews changes and makes recommendations.</p> <p><b>Estimator provides first look at construction costs</b> based on drawings and square footage requirements. An initial construction budget is established.</p> <p><b>Six new members join the RTA Committee</b> from Fairfax, South Burlington, Colchester, Winooski, Mount Mansfield Union, Champlain Valley Union School Boards. A detailed information binder and orientation was provided to get the new members fully engaged quickly.</p> <p><b>RTA Finance Team established</b> to develop operating budget.</p>



<p>Aug. 2003</p>	<p><b>Design Team completes its work</b> and presents its findings to the RTA Executive Committee. Revisions and additional tasks assigned.</p> <p>Full-time Communications Manager hired by the Chamber to implement a Public Communications Strategy in <b>preparation for a regional vote in March 2004 to approve the regional governance structure.</b></p>
<p>Sept. 2003</p>	<p><b>Drafts of Capital and Operating budgets developed</b> and presented to the RTA Executive Committee for their review. Joint presentation developed by the RTA Design and Finance Teams for full RTA Committee's consideration.</p> <p><b>Milton Town School District assigns a representative to the RTA Committee.</b></p>
<p>Nov. 2003</p>	<p><b>Vermont State Board of Education approves RTA Committee's governance proposal clearing the way for a vote by 25 towns on Town Meeting Day, March 2, 2004.</b></p>

By the end of her sophomore year of high school, Kato was ready to call it quits. "She would have been a statistic," comments [unclear]. After great success at [unclear] for Technology, she graduated and now attends Vermont State College.

- Kato [unclear]  
Center for Technology



If you are interested in participating in our grassroots campaign to establish this state of Vermont as a leader in technology education for our students, please contact [Melissa Harsh](#) or [Cindy Wick](#) at 802-853-1111.