

H.468

Although there are many ways available for traditional high schools in Vermont to offer flexible pathways so as to meet the needs of students, we in CTE run up against local scheduling that often conflicts with CTE offerings. Four years ago a number of local businesses approached local school boards, in my area, expressing frustrations that seniors could not spend two to three days a week attending five to eight hours a day in work based learning opportunities. A number of these seniors could enroll in apprenticeship programs which support much needed trade careers. The main push back from traditional high schools was local scheduling to meet local graduation requirements.

VTVLC is a known educational platform that is accepted across Vermont. Offerings at VTVLC can offer more flexibility to high school scheduling. When some of the local high schools have embraced creative alternative scheduling for high school students, the burden of developing this flexibility often lies with the traditional high school's already overburdened staff. Again, VTVLC is already developed and a high school student can basically be plugged in.

I think this partnership between CTE, the local high school and VTVLC can help with some of the issues described above. Quite frankly, any movement that helps promote flexible pathways for Vermont high school students, which has already been passed by the Legislature, is a step in the right direction.